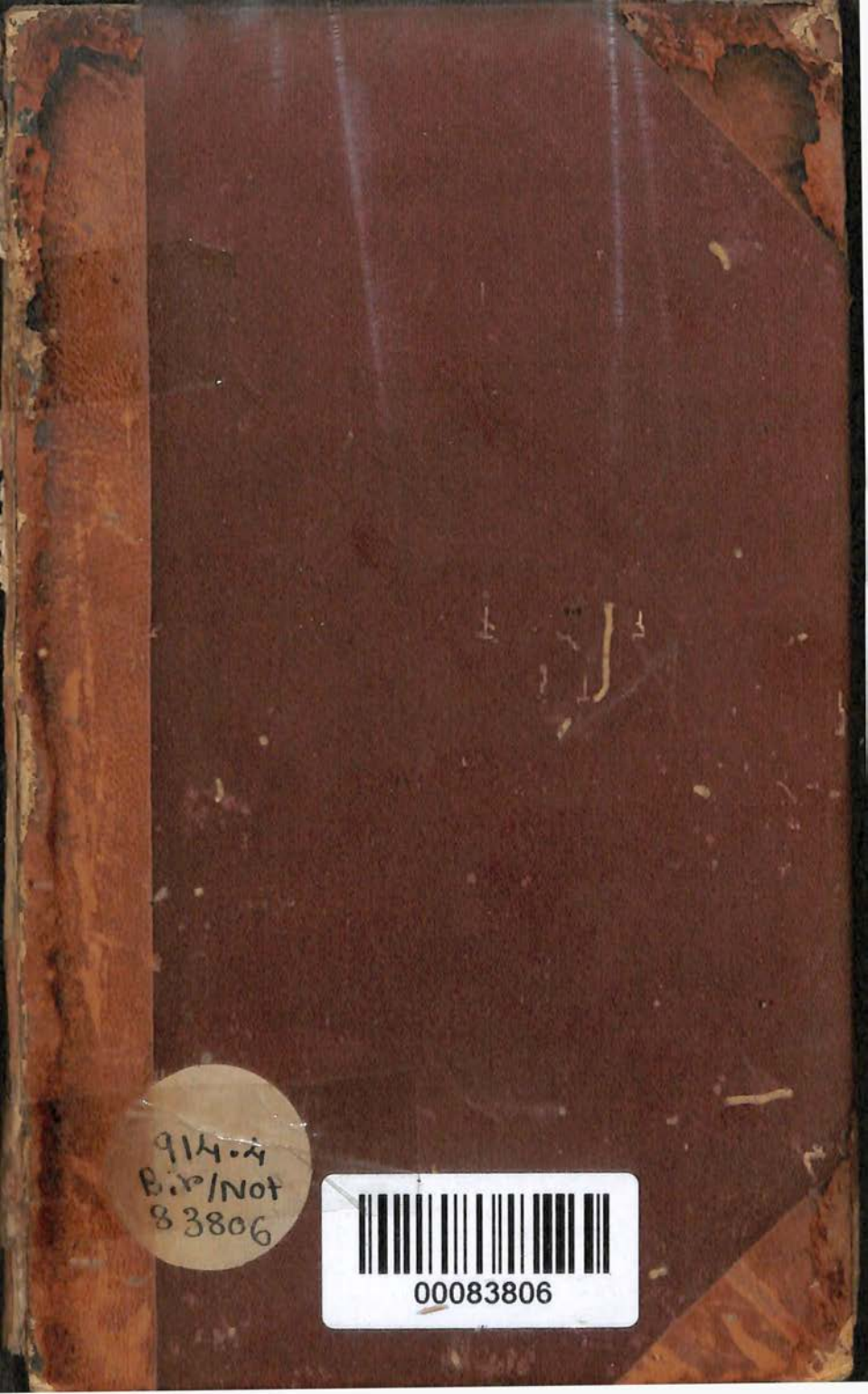
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OF THE

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NOTES

ON A JOURNEY THROUGH

FRANCE,

FROM DIEPPE THROUGH PARIS AND LYONS,
TO THE PYRENNEES, AND BACK
THROUGH TOULOUSE,

IN JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER,

1814,

83806

DESCRIBING THE HABITS OF THE PEOPLE, AND THE AGRICULTURE OF THE COUNTRY.

By MORRIS BIRKBECK.

SECOND EDITION:

WITH AN APPENDIX.

LONDON:

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The Appendix to this Edition may be had by the purchasers of the first Edition, price 6d. stitched.

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To Mr. GEORGE FLOWER, of Marden, near Hertford.

Dear Sir,

You were my agreeable and intelligent fellow-traveller, and I offer you this little volume as the result of our joint observations,

being,

your faithful friend,

M. BIRKBECK.

Wanborough, Nov. 13th, 1814.

July 11th, 1814.

LANDED at Dieppe, after a long but pleasant voyage of thirty-six hours from Brighton.

Twelve years have elapsed since an authentic account has been given of the internal state of France, therefore it is, in some sort, an unknown country. By noting first impressions as we pass along, a line here and there traced according to nature, we may carry home with us a faithful though slight sketch for the entertainment of the friends we have left behind.

A noble pier forming the port, and about twenty unfinished vessels decaying on the stocks, denote past prosperity; whilst the carpenters at work upon some of them give a promise of its revival. Near the landing-place the most prominent object is a newly erected gaudy crucifix; the figure large as life, and painted flesh colour; a naked body, writhing in torture: the Virgin Mary beneath in gay attire, and a crown surmounting all. Such exhibitions must excite horror and disgust: any thing but reverence.

Chalk Cliffs.—Strata eighteen inches to two feet in thickness, perfectly horizontal, and divided by flints. Chalk in small fragments; no masses. These strata appear to be of later formation than those on the opposite coast. Upon the chalk is a rich sand of great depth, with particles so minute as to occasion considerable closeness of texture.

Dieppe is a large town: houses very substantial, but old and shabby-looking: some have three stories in the roof; and many of the houses contain as many families as stories: windows very large, and mostly standing open. Bread, and provisions in general, half the English price: meat so bad that a creditable butcher with us would not expose it for sale.

Walking near the barracks, I was struck with the respectable appearance of the soldiers; several were seated under the trees, reading.

In the evening the streets, the boulevards, the bourse, every convenient place was filled with groups of people, of all descriptions, engaged in conversation. No rudeness in the men, no levity in the females; politeness and chearful, sincere, good humour prevailing on all sides. How different, thought I, from an evening scene in a British sea-port! Yet

Dieppe is said to be one of the coarsest places in France. There is more appearance of enjoyment, and less of positive suffering than I ever beheld before, or had any conception of; but it is not the sort of enjoyment which suits my habits; I question if I could be happy in their way. What a pains-taking unfortunate race are we! So busy about living that we really have not time to live! and our recreations have so much of vice in them, that serious folks have imagined it impossible to be both merry and wise. The people here, though infinitely behind us in the accommodations of life, seem to be as much our superiors in the art of living.

July 12.—I am informed that all the children of the labouring class learn to read; and are generally taught by their parents. The relation between a good education and good morals might be studied here, to advantage, by the opposers of our improved modes of teaching the children of the poor.

Walked about four miles to Offranville, and breakfasted with the curate, who gave us a loaf and a bottle of wine. He is well pleased with the new order of things; and turns up his eyes in pious ecstacy at the name of Louis. He

shewed us the ornaments of his church with real pride, in the garb of humility.

Offranville is a large commune, of 3000 inhabitants. Soil, clay with chalk beneath; sand upon chalk, and thin chalky land. Each description is more fertile than land of similar appearance in England: rent about 18s. per English acre; farming not very good; land foul, and nearly all cropped. Wheat fine, and occupying about a third of the surface; barley and oats indifferent, and extremely foul. Flax, hemp, and rape seed, in considerable quantities. Some excellent clover, and a little meagre lucern. Wages 30 sous per day; fuel as dear as in England, nearly: plough extremely cumbersome. They are much behind us in all their implements. Horses good, and well fed.

The arguments of the English, for the abolition of the Slave Trade by the French, have no weight on this side of the water: "It is a monopoly of West-India products you are aiming at," say they; "your islands are stocked with slaves; and you are anxious to prevent us from obtaining the hands needful for the cultivation of ours. The best argument you could hold out to us, for declining the trade, would be to take some steps towards the emancipation of your negroes." As it is, the greater our

zeal on this subject, the more jealous are they of our motives.

July 13.—Visited Tibernon, two miles from Dieppe, the chateau of a widow lady, who keeps a flock of Merinos; the only considerable one in this neighbourhood. We found them of good quality as to wool, but nearly ruined by the foot-rot, which they have given up as incurable, after some ineffectual attempts to conquer it. The soil is dry, and seems well adapted for sheep. Perhaps their custom of housing them, without due attention to cleanliness, may propagate the infection, and render the disease more virulent. It seems, however, to have entire possession of this flock, which is the first specimen we have seen of Merino sheep in France.

The land at Tibernon is extremely fertile; and, though above the cliffs, as good, I think, as the rich low tract on the opposite coast of Sussex. It is cultivated, without fallows, under wheat, following clover or pulse. Barley, oats, flax, hemp, rape seed, are grown; but no turnips, and very little provision of any kind for sheep. Rent about 30s per acre; wheat excellent; barley and oats greatly inferior, and foul; plough very large, and work not good; harrows with wooden teeth, as is the case

all over the kingdom; waggons and carts of enormous length. The bailiff was a priest before the revolution; and has much of the manners of his order.

In Dieppe they have a singular regulation, which must tend greatly to preserve order and prevent accidents in the streets. Every person who is abroad, without a lanthorn, after ten at night, is taken into custody by the police. With their early hours, ten is equivalent to our twelve.

July 14.—On leaving Dieppe for Rouen, we enter on a vast expanse of country, covered with luxuriant crops. Not a speck of waste to be discovered. The road itself is a magnificent object, wide, well formed, and in excellent order; running in a right line for leagues before us, and planted on each side with apple and pear trees. As we pass along we perceive, to right and left, in all directions, the cross roads marked by similar rows of luxuriant fruit trees, as far as the eye can reach. No hedges, and few villages or habitations in sight. The soil, a deep hazel mould upon chalk, with little variation for many miles.

The following seems the prevailing course of husbandry; but the fallow is often omitted in the better sort of land.

One-sixth fallow; generally well performed.

One-sixth clover; universally good. After standing some days in large cocks, the hay is tied with straw bands, in bundles of 14lb. each: 22 of which are delivered at 10 franks, 50s. per English load of 18 cwt.

Two-sixths wheat or rye; all good.

One-sixth oats or barley; chiefly the former. Some fine, but generally bad, and very weedy.

One sixth peas, vetches, flax, rape seed; much of the latter very foul.

No provision for sheep pasture; and but little sainfoin or lucern. Three small sheep-folds in twenty-five miles: the flocks were remaining in them at eleven in the forenoon, and looking wretchedly. The shepherd's lodging, a little hut on wheels, standing by each fold. All over France the shepherds constantly sleep by their flocks. We observed four or five proprietor's houses (campagnes), but not one farm-like establishment. The farms are small; and their low buildings so embowered in orchards as not to be seen at a distance. Many cottages by the road side, which are in good repair, well glazed and neat.

About nine miles north of Rouen, we open on a different scene; descending suddenly into

a beautiful valley, full of noble houses and manufacturing establishments. Rouen and its neighbourhood is a principal seat of the cotton manufactory; the Manchester of France.

These great works have been wholly at a stand during the later years of the war, owing to the scarcity and enormous price of the raw material: they are now recovering their activity. I was admitted into a cotton mill at Deville, which employs six hundred people: the neatness and regularity of arrangement, and the decent appearance of the work people, bespoke a well-managed and prosperous concern. I thought the machinery good; of this, however, I am not a competent judge. Twist is completed by four operations from the carding; and the weaving costs only 2d. per yard. Women who attend the looms earn 15d. per day, equal to eleven pounds of bread; therefore the low price is not the result of low wages; a fact which deserves the attention of the promoters of the Corn Bill in England. It is the opinion here, that the high price of provisions, with us, will soon give the French manufacturers the means of exceeding ours in cheapness.

The approach to Rouen is noble: every ob-

ject denotes prosperity and comfort. Since I entered the country I have been looking in all directions for the ruins of France; for the horrible effects of the revolution, of which so much is said on our side of the water: but instead of a ruined country, I see fields highly cultivated, and towns full of inhabitants. No houses tumbling down, or empty; no ragged, wretched-looking, people. I have enquired, and every body assures me that agriculture has been improving rapidly for the last twenty-five years; that the riches and comforts of the cultivators of the soil have been doubled during that period; and that vast improvement has taken place in the condition and character of the common people. In the early part of the revolution, more was done in promoting the instruction of the lower orders than the sinister policy of the late Emperor was able to destroy: and, though much remains to be desired on this point, enough has been effected to shew that a well-educated commonalty would not be wanting in industry or subordination.

On my first landing I was struck with the respectable appearance of the labouring class; I see the same marks of comfort and plenty every where as I proceed. I ask for the

wretched peasantry, of whom I have heard and read so much; but I am always referred to the revolution: it seems they vanished, then.

July 16.—Corn market, Rouen:—A retail business chiefly. Wheat about 34s. per quarter, coarse and light; oats good, 13s. 6d. per quarter; vetches for pigeons and fowls, 24s. per quarter; oil cake 4d. for 6 lb. 12 oz. English weight.

Formerly there were, in Rouen, forty convents. These buildings are mostly now the property of individuals, and are applied to a variety of useful purposes: a few remain unsold, as public warehouses, barracks, &c. That of the Benedictines, a noble structure, is the Hotel de Ville. The libraries of the other convents have been collected, and deposited in this building for public use. It is open five days in the week. A splendid gallery of pictures, collected in the same manner, is also open (and *really* open) to the public. The garden, formerly belonging to this convent, is kept in good order, and forms an agreeable promenade, which is much frequented by the citizens.

Gypsum, in large quantities, is brought down the Seine from the neighbourhood of Paris. It

is used in the interior of buildings; and for manure on clover, after the first crop.

July 17.—Visited a small farmer a few miles from Rouen. Labourers wages 10d. per day, and board; 20d. per day without board. As all provisions, every article of expenditure, may be taken at something under half the English price, by doubling their wages, we may find the proportion they bear to ours. Great numbers of turkeys are kept here, and fowls of all descriptions. Poultry is an important object of French farming: it is a question whether there is more weight of mutton consumed than of poultry. The daughters of this farmer were both notable and polite: and the ploughman and boy were eating an omelet with silver forks.

On a sheep-walk above Deville, a man was collecting fresh sheep dung which he sold at three farthings per lb. It is used in dyeing cotton, red. I note this trifle because it may be worth knowing; but especially as an instance of the danger of observing superficially. I thought that he must of course be a wretched pauper, who was collecting sheep dung to sell as manure: this excited my curiosity, which was agreeably relieved by the above infor-

mation. At a very poor inn in a remote village, where we stopped on our morning's ride, the landlady kept a child's school, and her daughter was weaving cotton check; her sister kept a little shop, and was reading a translation of Young's Night Thoughts. This was more than we should have expected in a village alehouse in England.

A dirty fellow, with a good voice, and a fiddle with three strings, alternately chanting and preaching to the croud in one of the market places at Rouen, attracted my attention. The *morale* was the collection of three sous each from his hearers, for a sacred charm: being much amused and somewhat edified, I purchased a packet. It contained two papers of prayers and saintly histories; a small crucifix, and a *very* small bit of the *real* cross. When I displayed my treasure at the hotel, our landlady's son, a boy of about thirteen who spoke a little broken English, cries out, on seeing the crucifix, "Dat is God,"—"Dat is God."

"*July* 19.—From Rouen to Louviers is an enchanting country. The valley of the Seine, in breadth, beauty, and fertility, is superior to any river valley I have seen. This noble stream has worn its channel through about fifty strata of

chalk. The strata are from 18 inches to 2 feet in thickness, and divided by flints. The chalk is soft and mouldering, and the cliffs in many places have a singular appearance from the flints remaining prominent, whilst the chalk has crumbled away: it is of so tender a texture that the whole mass would give way but for the support of the flints. The horizontal position, the number of thin strata, and the thickness of the layers of flint, give a different character to these cliffs from those of England; and the softness of the chalk denotes a later formation.

July 20.—Louviers, famous for its fine cloths, is favourably situated on a beautiful clear stream, of which full advantage appears to be taken, for working their machinery. Here are several noble establishments for spinning woollen yarn. Their cropping or shearing machines were performing their office with the greatest precision. I think they are wide awake to mechanical improvements; indeed, the quality of their cloth proves their skill too well to leave a doubt of the excellence of their implements. There is great decency and comfort in the looks of their work people; of whom women form by far the principal part.

At Evreux is a manufactory of ticking, which seemed to be in motion, at least, if not in acti-

vity. A ci-devant convent has been converted into a prison and a court house for the department. There are 160 prisoners, who are as well off as people in their condition can be.

Much rye cut, and some carried, between Louviers and Evreux. Women were every where hoeing French beans (Haricos;) they are planted in rows, and seem to be well cultivated, as a fallow crop. We saw more sheep in these fifteen miles than in the whole distance from Dieppe to Louviers. The land is poorer, and there are more fallows; wheat good, generally; oats, as usual, bad.

July 21.—Between Evreux and Passy are large tracts of fine turnip land, under the routine of fallow, wheat, oats. The wheat, as before, good; oats universally bad and foul; very few sheep; the soil still poorer. There surely is room for great improvement here, by the introduction of turnips, unless the dryness of the climate forbid; and clover sown on their wheat in the spring, would give them a produce of much greater value than their wretched oats, at one fourth of the expense.

Vineyards begin to make their appearance at Bonét, about 50 miles north of Paris.

In all the country we have passed, the manu-

facturing districts excepted, and they are small in extent, our English eyes look in vain for respectable *homes*. As we approach Paris, good houses and country seats are not unfrequent; but in the country, remote from large towns and manufactories, there seem to be no habitations but those of small farmers and cottagers.

„*Paris, July* 21. From Rouen to Louviers we travelled by diligence; a most unweildy machine: it was an extremely large and heavy coach body, on two wheels, which carried eight persons within and three without. The descent of the hills, with this weight balanced on the axletree, was a tremendous operation. From Louviers we proceeded, post, to Paris; a mode which unites the worst parts of English and French travelling: English expence and French accommodation.

We afterwards found posting not so inconvenient or expensive. If you take your own voiture, or hire one for the journey, you escape the miserable Cabriolets provided by the postmasters, and the trouble of changing every seven or ten miles. You may also take two horses at 40 sous each instead of three at 30 sous; and you save 30 sous a stage, which is charged when they furnish a carriage. With

these precautions, there is not much room to complain of French posting.

On our arrival at our hotel, the postillion demanded double for the last post, as a Poste Royale; armed a l'Anglois at all points against imposition, I objected; he proposed going to the Bureau des Postes, to prove his right; I, curious to be introduced to a French Authority, willingly consented, and away we went to the Bureau des Postes: there he established his claim. On returning to the hotel to his voiture and horses, an article of our baggage was missing; the postillion declared he had not seen it, and as we could not ascertain at what place it had been left, it was given up as lost; it was a *sac de nuit*, containing sundries of some value. In three days the same postillion left our sac at the hotel unopened, not an article missing: he had traced it back until he found it; and considering the mode of our settlement, it was more than we expected. I give it as a sample of French honesty and regard for character. As another instance of the same kind; a postillion galloped after us three miles, with a small article which had been overlooked in shifting the luggage.

July 27.—We have now been a week in

Paris; we have delivered our letters and looked about us, comparing what we see here with what we have left at home, like other travellers. We find things here, not of a piece; public profusion and private frugality; a brilliant government and a plain people. The people wiser, and of course better than their rulers; this, I imagine, is a common case; but they generally differ only in degree, the character the same. This *opposition* of character I do not comprehend, but I suspect the work is not quite finished.

There is a marked difference between the two languages, of which I was not at all aware, in the manner of delivery. The English use much emphasis, the French scarcely any; and in speaking French, anxious to be understood, we are apt to use still more emphasis than in our own tongue; which makes sad work of it. Teachers should attend to this; to the cadence of the sentence, as well as the pronunciation of the words.

July 28.—Waited upon M. Tessier, who is Inspector of the National Flocks, and well known as a writer on agriculture; he received us with great politeness and liberality; he shewed us specimens of wool from the Rambouillet flock, from the shearing of 1787 to that of 1814. The

quality of the original stock was very good, yet there is an evident improvement from year to year in the early part of the series; probably from selection. There appears no great difference in the latter years. There are many specimens of two, three, and even five year's growth. It is remarkable that the wool of five year's growth, though more than twelve inches long, preserves a fibre of equal fineness throughout: this circumstance confirms M. Tessier's report of the healthy condition of the animal. One specimen of two year's growth is extremely curious. The sheep, with his first year's fleece on his back, was dipped in Indigo dye; his wool received the colour, and, what is most curious, though exposed the whole year, has retained it perfectly: one half of the fibre is a beautiful blue; and the other, which grew after the immersion, a snowy white. I have heard of clothiers dyeing their wool in the grease. Has that substance a tendency to render the colour permanent?

M. Tessier conducted us to his flock at Isy, a league from Paris; they are Merinos, of good quality both in wool and carcase: 450 ewes, ewe lambs and rams, which are kept in three parcels. They are housed from 8 in the evening

to 7 in the morning; and from 11 in the forenoon to 4 in the afternoon, in summer. Their hours of feeding of course are from 7 to 11 in the morning, and from 4 to 8 in the evening. As the cool weather advances, the day-housing is gradually dispensed with. They are in good and healthy condition.

The practice of sheltering their flocks at noon, during the summer, is universal. It is very refreshing to the sheep, and affords them protection from the flies. Where buildings are commodiously situated, I would recommend it to the attention of English flock-masters.

M. Tessier hires the whole of the keep of this flock. He pays £62. 10s. sterling to the farmer for the sheep pasture of his farm, which consists of the borders, fallows and stubbles; stocking at his own discretion. He buys Lucerne hay for four winter months; perhaps 40 ton on an average of seasons, at about 40s. per ton; making the expense of keep £142. 10s. sterling. His Shepherd's wages are extravagant according to our notions; the following are the particulars.

	£	s.	d.
Wages of chief Shepherd 300 francs per Ann	12	10	0
3 francs per head for every sheep sold, say 200	25	0	0
Board at 1½ francs per day	22	15	0
A Cottage	2	10	0
Wages of second Shepherd 200 francs per Ann.	8	6	8
Board	22	15	0
25 sous per day for 3 months to a boy . .	4	7	0
Extra expences	4	0	0
Expence of labour . . .	102	3	8
Ditto of sheep	142	10	0
	244	13	8
450 Fleeces 6 lb. each, 2700 lb. of wool, at 20d.	225	0	0
Lamb Wool . . . 200 . . . . 1s.	10	0	0
Sale of 200 Sheep			

The Shepherd is a wealthy man. His wife shewed us her ample stores of home-spun linen. She sows the hemp, prepares and spins it herself. The labouring class here is certainly much higher, on the social scale, than with us. Every opportunity of collecting information on this subject confirms my first impression, that there are very few really poor people in France. In England, a poor man and a labourer are synonymous terms: we speak familiarly of *the poor*, meaning the labouring class: not so here. I have now learnt enough to explain this dif-

ference; and having received the same information from every quarter, there is no room to doubt its correctness.

The National Domains, consisting of the confiscated estates of the church and the emigrant nobility, were exposed to sale during the pecuniary distresses of the revolutionary government in small portions, for the accommodation of the lowest order of purchasers, and five years allowed for completing the payment. This indulgence, joined to the depreciation of assignats, enabled the poorest description of peasants to become proprietors; and such they are almost universally; possessing from one to ten acres. And as the education also of the poor was sedulously promoted during the early years of the Revolution, their great advance, in character as well as condition, is no mystery.

July 27.—The Fruit gardens at Montreuil are a curious instance of the accumulation of capital in a small space. It it a little commune of walls. These gardens are said to be worth £400 sterling per acre. All the occupiers are proprietors. I do not think their management of wall-fruit trees equal to that of our gardeners.

The Gypsum quarry of Mont Martre is wrought to the depth of about 400 feet. The strata are

about two feet in thickness, and the lowest are considered the best, as in our chalk pits. About 200 feet from the surface is a single stratum of argillaceous limestone, which breaks with a conchoidal fracture. Above the gypsum, is an irregular bed of clay marl, about ten feet in depth. It is in this quarry that M. Cuvier found the fossil bones which have excited so much the attention of naturalists.

The gypsum is calcined on the spot by a moderate heat, which expels the water of crystallization and reduces it to a soft powder.

From Mont Martre is a fine view of Paris; The atmosphere is nearly as clear as in the country. Their cookery being performed mostly by charcoal fires, very little smoke is produced in summer.

July 29.—Examined a curious invention, by which the mode of building with earth of almost any description except pure sand, called Pisé, is carried to great perfection, The earth, instead of being rammed in a large frame of the dimensions of the intended wall, is placed in a strong mould of about a cubic foot, or of any size or shape which the particular purpose may demand. Then, after a few strokes from a very heavy stamper, it is turned out a solid mass, as

durable, as it should seem, as stone. The machinery consists of a mill-stone, on which is fixed the mould, and a stamper like a common pile-driver. The earth is used of the degree of moisture of mould fresh dug. Chalk rubble was the kind employed in this instance. The name of the inventor is Cointeraux: he was building for M. le Comte de Neufchateaux. The blocks are laid in mortar; and it was surprizing to see the expedition with which a heap of loose rubbish was converted into a solid wall.

July 30.—Fifty miles south of Paris. Soil, sand on gravel; chalk beneath—good turnip land. Still two crops and a fallow. The universal course on soils of middling quality—clay, sand, or chalk, whatever the description.

The following account of the distribution of a small commune, may give an idea of the general occupation of the country.

	Acres.
Woods and meadows in the occupation of the proprietor	250
2 farms let; keeping 2 ploughs each; together 8 horses	300
10 freeholders, keeping 1 plough each; together 20 d°	750
28 freeholders, keeping no horses	250
	1550

1500 acres of arable, of which there are

under Fallow . . .	433
—— Wheat . . .	433
—— Oats	433

Those who have no horses pay 40 francs (33s. 4d.) per acre to their neighbours for the team labour of the whole course, viz. four ploughings on the fallow; and one ploughing for oats: four load of dung per acre carted on the fallow; and the harvest carting.

These small proprietors are labourers, and in general work for the neighbour who does their ploughing.

In this commune, the number of ploughs appears to be fully equal to the annual task. The number of acres ploughed in the course of the year is 2165, which is about seven acres and a half per day for fourteen ploughs, leaving ample time for harrowing, (of which with their constant fallowing, very little is required,) harvest, and dung cart. Thus the tillage is tolerably well performed; but the land is in an exhausted state, as appears from the allowance of dung which the two crops are estimated to provide for the fallow; four small cart loads per acre.

The ancient nobility, before the revolution, were not very refined in their mode of living at their chateaux, These houses, generally in a ruinous state and badly furnished, were occasionally visited by their owners, accompanied probably by a party of guests, and a numerous

tribe of domestics. These visits were the result of caprice sometimes; often of necessity; to recover fresh vigour for the expences of Paris; but rarely for the true enjoyment of the country. Their appearance was not welcomed by their tenants, from whom certain extra services were then required. Provisions of all kinds, grain, fish, flesh, fowl, all were in requisition. The dependants, almost plundering, and insolent of course. The gentry, spending their time at cards or billiards; or promenading in their strait lined gardens, in stiff Parisian dresses, were only known on their estates to be hated and despised. A better spirit prevails at present. Proprietors have acquired a touch of the country gentleman, and are cultivating their estates; whilst the tenants are relieved from degrading corvées and other odious oppressions. Still, much is wanting to render a country residence inviting to those who cannot be satisfied in the society of their own domestic circle; or who may not be blessed with a numerous and happy family.

When capital, in the hands of well educated men, begins to be directed to rural affairs, a foundation is laid for a better state of society. A broad foundation of this sort is, I have been

informed, already laid in France. Thanks to the Revolution!

Sunday is but slightly observed in this part of France, at any season; very slightly indeed in harvest. Some go to church for about an hour; but, before and after, no great marks of Sabbath are perceptible. This is to be regretted: a day of rest is at least an excellent political regulation; good for man and beast. It is, however, pleasant to perceive how little hold the church has upon the minds of the people. Surely it can never recover its influence. The churches here are modest structures; not so imposing as those of Normandy; and I fancy they have less influence on the imagination of the inhabitants.

Cosne, Aug. 2.—From Montargis to this place is over a poor sandy district; exhausted by the old system of two crops and a fallow. The crops such as may be expected from barren sands in a dry season. Labourers, extremely well dressed, reaping oats, the worst I ever saw.

The land immediately round Cosne is of a better description; some of it appears to be an excellent, strong, wheat soil. Estates, I think, are cheap. One, which is for sale within half a mile of Cosne, may afford an idea of their value.

1000 acres arable, 500 woodland, equal to 1650 acres English; one third of the arable poor cold clay, of little value; two thirds pretty good wheat land; part dry enough for turnips: is let on lease for nine years (which the tenant would give up on receiving a fair price for his stock and crops) at 9000 franks, £375 sterling; and land-tax 1600 franks £66 13*s.* per ann. might be bought, as we understood, for about 22 years purchase, £8333. On this estate is an excellent house, and out-buildings, and a large, walled garden; all in good repair.

Aug, 4.—Nevers. Chalk, at different depths, through the whole country, from Dieppe to this place. In consequence, we find the soil better, in every part, than its superficial character denotes.

Sancerre, renowned for the bravery of its Protestant inhabitants; Pouilly, for its Vin Blanc; and La Charité, are fine points of view on the Loire, which is on the whole a miserable looking object at this season; a channel of naked sand.

Nevers is a very old looking place—old amongst the French towns, where nothing is new. From Nevers to St. Pierre, an agreeable England-like country. Oats generally green: a few patches of Indian corn. No Vines. Soil

stony, and full of springs in many places. Draining is not much practised in France, nor much wanted, I believe. From St. Pierre to Moulins, a poor, dull country. The lower classes appear less comfortable: an old inclosed country, which probably furnished no small allotments for the poor on the sale of the national domains. Moulins contains 6000 inhabitants, with manufactories of stone ware, glass, and cutlery. There is also a noble bridge over the Allier; and a wharf, with immense preparation of warehouses, but no goods: no merchandize of any kind. How unlike a wharf on an English canal! You meet with no accumulation of property, no stock in reserve, here. The people seem to live from hand to mouth on the articles which they find nearest them: the same with regard to clothing and all other articles of common consumption. Society exists here in a much simpler state than in England.

From Dieppe to Paris, I think the cultivation equal to ours: from Paris to Moulins, much worse than any part of England I am acquainted with; especially the latter part of the route.

Aug. 5.—I find, as I suspected from their appearance, that few of the peasantry here are proprietors. Many *rent* little patches, of a quar-

ter or half an acre, in the neighbourhood of the town, which they cultivate as gardens; for this they pay after the rate of 50*s.* or 60*s.* sterling per acre.

There are many poor at Moulins, but not quite so many as before the Revolution. Several convents have been converted into Etablissemens de Mendicité. These institutions only admit the sick, and are supported by a small duty on provisions, paid on their entry into the town. The small occupiers about Moulins are in very poor plight. They thresh the whole of their little crop immediately after harvest, and sell the produce to pay their rent and tax. In other parts of France they sell the surplus only; reserving enough for their own use. Here, they buy, and frequently at an advanced rate, in the latter part of the year, what they have sold in the former. Here they rent, and at a dear rate, their little modicums of land. Elsewhere they are proprietors. Attorney's office at Moulins much like a lumber garret. The French are cleanly in their persons, particularly so in their linen; but neatness and order in the arrangement of their houses is not so much attended to. There appears in every office, in every inn, in every shop, two persons, at least, to one in England. This is *their* mode of dividing labour.

Perhaps the disorder that prevails in these places is both cause and effect.

Aug. 6.—At Thiel yesterday we looked over a large poor estate: soil a whitish sand. Course of husbandry, the very dregs of the old system. Fallow, rye, rest, (without grass seeds) then fallow, rye, rest, again. Crop, 10 to 15 bushels per acre.

They keep a few sheep to pick over the resting land. Store wethers worth 10*s.* or 12*s.* Ewes 5*s.* or 6*s.* Good oxen, 7 or 8 years old, 10 guineas each: cows about £4. Their plough pushes the soil each way, leaving the sand in small ridges: it is not intended to turn a furrow. Harrows are seldom used.

South of Moulins we see no more flint: the gravel is composed of fragments of limestone. The soil improves: the cultivation not much better. A few miles north of La Palisse is a small tract of beautiful and fertile limestone country.

Passed through La Palisse on a fair-day. There are monthly fairs for sheep, cattle, and horses, at this place; which, if we may judge from the present, are very large; yet the place is not enriched. Such a concourse of people would, in England, leave money enough behind them

to give an air of prosperity to the town. But these people are all clothed in their own manufacture, of coarse woollen, from their flocks, and linen from their own hemp. They bring their bread with them; and perhaps club for a bottle of wine, for which they pay 10 sous. They have very little money, and not much need of it, with their present habits. With their hats of two feet in diameter, their long lank locks, and gaunt figures, they have a famished look. They are the only people whom I have seen in this country, whose appearance generally denoted hard fare. The bonnets of the women are of straw; very large and grotesque in shape. Both sexes wear wooden shoes, in which they walk uneasily; and can hardly keep pace with their oxen.

Between La Palisse and La Pacourdic are grass lands of great verdure; a rare sight.

Roanne, Aug. 7.—A large shabby town, like other French towns. The same character prevails in all.

Dieppe, Rouen, Paris (the Public buildings and Palais Royal excepted) Nevers, Moulins, Roanne, might seem to be parcels of the same; and to have made no progress whatever in the conveniences and refinements in life, since the

day they were built. On the contrary, when the extraordinary operation of repairs is attempted, it is often in a style which disfigures the ancient structure. Every thing is old and wearing out: houses, furniture, carriages, harness, all of a date, and no prospect of a renewal.

The population of France seems to be arranged thus: a town (Moulins for instance) depends for subsistence on the lands immediately surrounding it. The cultivators individually have not much to spare; because, as their husbandry is a sort of gardening, it requires a large *country* population, and has, in proportion, less superfluity of produce. Thus is formed a numerous but poor country population. The daily supply of the numberless petty articles of French diet, employs, and therefore produces, a multitude of little traders. It must be brought daily from the country; and the number of individuals whom this operation employs is beyond calculation. Multitudes, again, make a scanty living by retailing through the streets these low priced and perishable articles. The cultivator receives payment for his surplus produce in sous, and he expends only sous. The tradesman is on a par with the farmer: as they receive, so they expend. And thus 50,000 persons may inhabit a

district with a town of 10,000 inhabitants in the centre of it; bartering the superfluity of the country for the arts and manufactures of the town: poor from generation to generation, and growing continually poorer as they increase in numbers; in the country, by the division and subdivision of property; in the town, by division and subdivision of trades and professions. Such a people, instead of proceeding from the necessaries to the comforts of life, and then to the luxuries, as is the order of things in England, are rather retrograde than progressive. French houses are generally large, old, and shabby; expensive in their original construction; and *filled* with people who have no means of building such houses now: they can hardly afford to repair them. There is no advancement in French society; no improvement, nor hope of it. Yet they seem happier than we are. Being much on a level among themselves, and possessing enough to supply their temperate wants, they feel no degradation. We spend our lives in painful endeavours to advance ourselves and our children; having absolutely no means of improving their situation, they submit to necessity, and spend their lives contentedly. If an opportunity occurs of amending their condition, they

are sufficiently ready to embrace it. The rapacity with which they attack the purses of English travellers is the commercial spirit in the only way in which it can at present exert itself.

The higgling disposition of the French, which is so teazing to strangers, arises from their way of living ;—buying their daily food almost by the mouthful : a handful of spinach, a cucumber, a little fruit; the value small, but uncertain, and of course subject to perpetual bargaining. If you are obliged to higgle about a sous, you will naturally do the same in greater matters; and thus it becomes habitual.

Coals of the best quality are dug about 30 miles from Roanne.

Roanne.—Sunday. Religion seems to be monopolized by the women, if we may judge by the attendance at church. Twenty women to one man is about the proportion. At the Petits Minims here, to day, there might be 800 persons present to hear the sermon ; 40 of them men !

Aug.7.—To St. Symphorien through a delightful, well-inhabited, well cultivated district. Hilly, almost mountainous, yet fertile. The most desirable country we have yet seen in France. The neighbourhood of St. Symphorien is studded with excellent houses. They are

country seats of merchants and manufacturers of Lyons; who, by clustering round this pleasant spot, seem to have formed a rural society.

From Mount Taranne we had a fine view of the snow-clad Alps. Cows are much used for draught in this country: many goats are seen among the little flocks of sheep. About a third of every flock is black. The number of sheep is surprizingly small through the whole country.

Aug. 8.—From St. Symphorien to Lyons. The views fine and the air delightful; but the soil, being chiefly on granite, is not fertile, except in spots, where the rock is in a state of decomposition. In some places there is argillaceous schist, and a more fruitful soil.

Lyons, Aug. 8.—The city is in a grand stir, receiving a visit from the Duchess of Angouleme, daughter of Louis XVI. This evening, on our arrival, we find all the fashion and pomp of Lyons and its environs collecting to a ball, in honour of this now important personage. The Bâtiment de St. Pierre is arranged for the occasion. The quadrangle is fitted up as a saloon for dancing; two large floors being constructed of boards in the open area. The balconies, hung with tapestry and decorated with a profusion of

fleurs de lis, are furnished with benches for the accommodation of six thousand persons.

Aug. 10.—The waters of the Saone are excellent for scowering; containing, it is said, a soapy quality. Those of the Rhone, from their purity, are equally adapted to dyeing. The silk manufacture has proceeded tolerably during the war: at present it is prosperous.

At Jardin des Plantes is a pleasant promenade; but not of high repute as a botanical garden.

I was highly gratified by the appearance of cleanliness and good order in the General Hospital. In one of the immense wards, in which every bed was occupied, the ventilation was so complete that not the least unpleasant effluvia could be perceived.

Aug. 12.—Took boat for Vienne—altogether delightful! Sweet air—exhilirating, mountain scenery;—the clear, and rapid, and majestic Rhone; rocks, woods, vineyards; chateaux on commanding eminences; cottages, embosomed in trees, retiring from the view; the busy traffic of the river, and prosperous villages on its banks.

13.—Walked to St. Urban, over hills of alluvial formation, to the east of the great road. Granite pebbles in vast beds, 800 feet at least

above the present channel of the Rhone. Soil generally poor. The farmers, with their wives and daughters, every where busy, threshing out their crop, in the open air. After harvest the process of threshing occupies a month or six weeks; during which time they have no apprehensions from the weather; so settled is the climate. The straw is stacked with great care for fodder.

The bakers of Vienne or Roche, are the purchasers of the wheat and rye of this district; but the growers, being generally owners of their little farms, always reserve enough for their own use. There seems however a total deficiency of convertible capital. Those lands which are let, are let at corn rents. The landlord has half the produce, and furnishes the stock; which is valued on entering and quitting: the tenant paying or receiving, as he may have deteriorated or improved it. Even the labourer is paid in kind for the two principal operations, harvesting and threshing: one-sixth of the gross produce, or three bushels on a crop of eighteen. Harvest is not finished until the threshing is done. On every farm this work was going on: the threshing floors are generally in the corner of a field: the loose mould shovelled aside, and

a good sweeping, being the only preparation. The size, of course, in proportion to the number of people, which is from two to twelve; rarely more than the latter. They thresh and winnow about seven Winchester bushels each per day. For harvesting and threshing, the English labourer receives about a tenth, at the present prices of corn and labour, when he is best paid. The English labourer receives two bushels, the French labourer, three bushels and one third. Money wages are in nearly the same proportion. The difference, we pay in poor rates, and as much more as the expence is greater to maintain a pauper than to preserve an industrious man from poverty; with the addition also of that very considerable part of the poor rates which is expended in law suits, in the erection and support of workhouses, and the salaries of Officers; with many other charges.

Aug. 14. *(St. Urban).*—In every part of France women employ themselves in offices which are deemed with us unsuitable to the sex. Here there is no sexual distinction of employment; the women undertake any task they are able to perform, without much notion of fitness or unfitness. This applies to all classes. The lady of one of the principal clothiers at Louviers,

conducted us over the works; gave us patterns of the best cloths; ordered the machinery to be set in motion for our gratification, and was evidently in the habit of attending to the whole detail of the business. Just so, near Rouen, the wife of the largest farmer in that quarter, conducted me to the barns and stables; shewed me the various implements, and explained their use: took me into the fields, and described the mode of husbandry, which she perfectly understood; expatiated on the excellence of their fallows; pointed out the best sheep in the flock, and gave me a detail of their management in buying their wether lambs and fattening their wethers. This was on a farm of about 400 acres. In every shop and warehouse you see similar activity in the females. At the royal porcelain manufactory at Sevres, a woman was called to receive payment for the articles we purchased. In the Halle de Bled, at Paris, women, in their little counting-houses, are performing the office of factors, in the sale of grain and flour. In every department they occupy an important station, from one extremity of the country to the other.

In many cases, where women are employed in the more laborious occupations, the real cause

is directly opposite to the apparent. You see them in the south, threshing, with the men, under a burning sun;—it is a family party threshing out the crop of their own freehold: a woman is holding plough;—the plough, the horses, the land is her's; or, (as we have it) her husband's; who is probably sowing the wheat which she is turning in. You are shocked on seeing a fine young woman loading a dung cart;—it belongs to her father, who is manuring his own field, for their common support. In these instances the toil of the woman denotes wealth rather than want; though the latter is the motive to which a superficial observer would refer it.

Who can estimate the importance, in a moral and political view, of this state of things? Where the women, in the complete exercise of their mental and bodily faculties, are performing their full share of the duties of life. It is the natural, healthy condition of Society. Its influence on the female character in France is a proof of it. There is that freedom of action, and reliance on their own powers, in the French women, generally, which, occasionally, we observe with admiration in women, of superior talents in England.

Embarked for Valence, on board a large trading barge, which had taken a cargo of wine to Lyons, and was returning, nearly empty, to Avignon. The crew were five fine young men, much superior in dress, manners, and conversation, to the bargemen of our own country.

A glorious view of the High Alps, all the afternoon. The mountains bordering the Rhone are covered with vines on every part where the decomposing granite furnishes a little culturable soil: especially as we approach Tournon, from whence comes the famous Hermitage wine. I had no conception of a country so entirely cultivated as we have found France from Dieppe to this place.

On some of the more harsh and ungrateful eminences, south of Tournon, the industrious cultivator has been compelled to recede a little; a few spots which once were vineyards are now neglected. A few miles north of Valence, the mountains of granite give place to stratified rocks of sand-stone and lime-stone. Opposite Valence is a remarkable rock of crumbling sand-stone, in horizontal strata.

Valence, Aug, 15.—Embarked in the afternoon on board a boat, crowded already with sixty common soldiers, who were proceeding to Mar-

scilles from various parts of the Continent (some of them from Great Britain) where they had been prisoners. A rough company, without officers. We lodged at an obscure village, opposite Mont Elimart; but found very good entertainment.

Aug. 16.—About three in the morning we re-embarked, enjoying the freshness of the morning air; which had nothing of the chilly rawness so common to our climate. Here the Rhone flows between mountains of stratified limestone, which I was surprized to find less fertile than the decomposing granite. A little below Pont St. Esprit, a fine old bridge, 3000 feet in length, through which we shot with amazing rapidity, the valley of the Rhone is more open: the rocks in many places receding to a considerable distance from the banks of the river. About two o'clock we reached Avignon, somewhat annoyed by the coarseness of our fellow-travellers, though on the whole we had reason to commend their civility. We made a short stop at Esprit, which gave me an opportunity of walking about the town. It is the most unpleasant prison-like place I ever beheld. It contains about 6000 inhabitants, cooped into a surprizingly small space. The streets are so

narrow that the people may almost shake hands from the upper windows: no carriage of common width can pass. The whole is surrounded by high walls. One wonders how people can be brought to inhabit such dens.

Avignon stands on a bold rock of limestone, of immense blocks, which may easily be mistaken for granite, from their ancient or rather primitive aspect. It is a pleasant, well-built town, containing 25,000 inhabitants. We found the town in a grand bustle about a Saint's procession. What Saint, we could not make out very easily; as we received a different report from every person we asked. The streets were crowded with women and military. All their church-doings are under military protection. The church, where they were fitting out the Saint for exhibition, had two files of soldiers from the door to the altar; bayonets fixed. For this there seems no occasion, as the women are sufficiently devout, and the men seem entirely indifferent. To judge from appearances merely, the political character of the French nation is at present rather low; first, prevails the military spirit, which seems to be the only spirit stirring among the men. Next come the priests; followed by the women. What will France become under the agency of

an overwhelming military establishment, and a king devoted to the church? The Papal palace at Avignon is used as barracks.

Aug. 17.—Spent the day in rambling through vineyards and olive grounds. Breakfasted at Ville Neuve, a considerable town on the opposite bank of the Rhone; with a ruined fort, once of great strength. We now indulge in the luxuries of this delightful climate. Our breakfast at the Hotel of Ville Neuve, was as follows, for three persons:

7 boiled eggs	14 sous
melon	6 sous
radishes, salad, and endive	12 sous
8 fine peaches	16 sous
plenty of excellent bread	10 sous
2 bottles of good wine .	12 sous

The whole cost 3 franks 10 sous, 2s. 11d. sterling; not quite one shilling each.

Until this day's ramble, our botanical researches produced but few plants which are not natives of Britain: but on these hills, we found ourselves at once, as it were, in a foreign clime. Many of the plants we knew, being the aromatics cultivated in our English gardens. Many more were wholly new to us.

Instead of threshing, the farmers are busy

treading out their corn with mules or horses. Four mules hired at 40 sous each, and four men at the same price, formed one company: sometimes two mules and two men. I could not learn, accurately, the quantity of work done in this very primitive mode, so as to compare it with hand threshing. The ploughing hereabouts is wretched work; hardly equal to a good hoeing.

Ploughing and threshing, two of the chief operations in the grand business of cultivation, which is the grand business of life, seem, in most places, to be very imperfectly understood, after so many centuries of practice! There must be a dead weight somewhere. It is not legislation, police, internal regulation; all these are independent of the spirit which severs the people of different countries; which creates and fastens eternal enmities between them; which prevents the productions of every climate from being mutually interchanged. Tyrannical government, the bramble under which people have sheltered themselves, though always opposed to their real interests and improvement, is the source of ignorance and poverty; of every abomination, and of every oppression. It creates idleness and luxury. It nourishes superstition; it foments war; the two great means of feeding

the idle and luxurious, and these drones, in return, are its chief supporters.

Aug. 16.—From Avignon to Nismes by the diligence, thirty-three miles, in thirteen hours! The French diligences perform the function of coach and waggon; but neither well. They travel too slowly for the passengers and too rapidly for the goods; which, unless they are curiously packed, suffer very much by the jumbling. They are however conducted with great regularity. A barren rocky district to Remoulins, and somewhat farther; but as we approach Nismes the country improves; and from Nismes to Montpellier is very rich and beautiful. The olive trees are larger as we approach Montpellier, denoting a more fertile soil: some of their trunks are from 18 inches to 2 feet in diameter. The olive is a miserable looking tree, most like a pollard willow: and the severe service of being thrice stripped of their leaves during the summer, gives a beggarly appearance to the mulberry tree. The vineyards are like plantations of currant trees; pleasing objects at a distance, where nothing else is green.

We dined at Remoulins, and, during our stay there, another of these velociferes, as the diligences are strangely named, drove into the yard

of the inn. It contained several gentlemen, and a lady with her young family. With the curiosity common to travellers we attended to the alighting of this party: as the lady stepped out of the carriage she discovered a lapse of stocking, and continuing her chat with the gentlemen who had handed her out, she deliberately adjusted it and tied her garter. This is characteristic of southern France, and tends to settle a point in natural history,—that a French lady's knee is as modest as the elbow of an English lady; which I am satisfied was the case in this instance.

No rain has fallen here for the last three months. At this season they have regularly in the South a continuance of dry weather, incompatible with the course of husbandry practised with so much success in England; and which might probably be adopted with some modifications in the North of France, where the drought is of shorter duration.

August 17.—Wages about Lunel; 20d. a day the men; 10d. to 15d. the women. Asked some men who were digging a vineyard how many shirts they had;—fifteen to twenty, "suivant la personne," was the reply. I have met with this unequivocal proof of riches in every part of the country.

Nismes.—This city boasts a temple of Diana, (or, more probably, a Pantheon) an immense amphitheatre, and other rich remains of Roman architecture, which I was much gratified in viewing, but shall not attempt to describe.

Many workmen are employed in restoring the amphitheatre to its original state. At present thousands of people assemble here every Sunday to see bull fights, as they are improperly termed. A bull is turned into the arena among a great number of young men, who give proofs of their activity and courage by teazing the animal into a rage, and then making their escape between pallisades, which are fixed round the arena, at fifteen inches apart, for that purpose: but fatal accidents are not very unfrequent. Many bulls are kept expressly for this barbarous sport. The amphitheatre is calculated to hold 17,000 spectators. It is an ellipsis, whose largest diameter is about 400 feet, and its shortest 300. The exterior wall is 60 feet high.

M. —— of ——, though an excellent and humane person, is a sçavant of the slavish order. He blames his friend M. ——— for having exposed himself to the displeasure of the newly restored Monarch by his honest writings: thinks it would have been wiser to have remained

quietly in his cabinet, a silent spectator, than to have sacrificed his senatorial dignity to his love of freedom. Such men are the most dangerous enemies of political virtue; the worst part of the servile mob.

From Nismes to Montpellier is the finest and best cultivated district we have seen. Every thing bears the marks of prosperity. Fertile fields, well built villages, a thick and happy population.

The quantity of almost impalpable dust accumulated on the limestone roads of this country is beyond conception; it absolutely splashes with the horses feet like deep mud. The olives and vines are whitened by it to a considerable distance; and the soil so completely covered, that you might easily mistake the dark yellow or reddish loam for chalk.

The well cultivated vineyard, planted with rows of olives, is the chief appropriation of this fine country; indeed it is so nearly universal that you wonder how fodder is obtained for the few horses required in its culture. We see, here and there, a little patch of Lucerne.

Montpellier, Aug. 18.—From Dieppe to this place we have seen scarcely a working animal whose condition was not excellent. Oxen, horses,

and now mules and asses, fat and well looking, but not pampered. This looks like prosperity. And when I add that we have not seen, among the labouring people, one such famished, worn out, wretched object, as may be met with in every parish of England, I had almost said on every farm; this, in a country so populous, so entirely agricultural, denotes real prosperity. Again, from Dieppe to this place, I could not easily point out an acre of waste, a spot of land that is not *industriously* cultivated, though not always *well*, according to our notions. France, so peopled, so cultivated; moderately taxed; without paper money, without tithes, without poor rates, almost without poor; with excellent roads in every direction, and overflowing with corn, wine and oil, must be, and really is, a rich country. Yet there are few rich individuals.

August 19.—Waited on M. ———, for whom we had letters. He is better informed probably than any other man on the actual state of the kingdom, having been occupied for a series of years, under the direction of government, in visiting the country from department to department, with a view to obtain a precise knowledge of its agriculture and resources. This gentleman confirms our observations in every

particular, and enables us, with safety, to generalize the result of the information we have collected.

1st. The labouring class, formerly the poor, are now rich, in consequence of the national domains having been sold in small allotments, at very low rates, and with the indulgence of five years for completing the payment. Thus there are few labourers or domestic servants who are not proprietors of land.

2d. By the Revolution, every oppression on agriculture was done away; tithes, game laws, corvées, &c.

3d. Since that time, much new ground has been brought into cultivation, and none of the old abandoned.

4th. The modes of husbandry have improved in many districts, by the introduction of fallow crops and artificial grasses, "Prairies artificielles." The general wages of labourers in husbandry 20d. per day, which is equal to 3s. 4d. with us, as every article of expenditure is somewhat below half the price.

There are no large flocks in France; but there are more sheep than we had supposed. Over the mountainous tracts which bordered our route from Valence to Avignon, large numbers are kept in the winter, which are on the Cevennes at this season of the year. There are also many

at present on the Pyrennees, which winter in the low countries.

The Cevennes continue the chain of mountains from the Alps towards the Pyrennees, and form the boundary of a country apparently once covered by the Mediterranean. This district comprizes the olive country, and differs essentially, in its vegetable productions, from the northern side of the mountains, to a precise line. We were surprized by this sudden change at Avignon. The plants are those which are found indigenous on the southern shores of the Mediterranean. The Pinus Alleppensis grows naturally on the south of the ridge which forms this basin, but never on the northern side of it.

Montpellier, Aug. 19.—In a country populous like this there must be, continually, instances of persons reduced to want by improvidence or misfortune; and humanity requires some provisions for these, beyond that of casual benevolence. In large towns there are generally two hospitals; one for the indigent sick, the other for the aged poor. These are supported by a small duty paid at the entrance of these towns on all kinds of provisions, called l'Octroi de Bienfaisance; or rather, these octrois provide for the whole public expenditure, and part of the receipt is applied to the maintenance of the hospitals. A contribution, purely voluntary, is

also made for the same purpose. In country communes there is no regular provision; but, in cases of extraordinary distress, the mayor and council of every commune are authorized to apply relief; a circumstance which seldom occurs. Thus we have confirmed here, what struck us so forcibly in Normandy, that in France there is not the class which we most truly call the labouring *poor*.

A man was guillotined this evening on the Boulevard near the prison, for coining; a crime which, like forgery with us, is punished "sans remission." Four or five horrible figures (young priests in a white dress, covering them from head to foot, with holes for the eyes) collected alms among the croud, for the soul of the poor criminal, to release him from purgatory.

August 20.—From Montpellier to Narbonne. (Breakfast at Bessenaz: melon, oysters, turbot, lobster, partridges, figs, peaches, plums.)

This district is extremely fertile and well cultivated; a deep-soiled corn country. Farmers every where treading out their wheat with mules or horses, twelve or fourteen together. After the corn is separated, they continue treading the straw, until it is reduced almost to chaff, to improve the fodder and forward the maturation of the dung.

Families in the towns, universally, lay in their stock of wheat for the year's consumption, at

this season. Present price 5s. per bushel, Winchester measure. The wine of this rich country is not good, but extremely abundant. From an acre of 800 toises, about three quarters of an English acre, they expect 3600 bottles. The labour is nearly the same as on hops; and where quantity rather than quality is the object, about the same proportion of manure is applied every other year.

August 21.—From Narbonne to Perpignan is a rugged and not very fertile country, and but indifferently cultivated: the vineyards extremely neglected in some places. The Cevennes on our right, the Mediterranean on the left, and the Pyrennees towering majestically before us, rendered the views extremely interesting and delightful.

Perpignan, August 22.—From the kindness and polite attention of M. ———, who took us to his estate about a league from this place, we had an opportunity of witnessing the wonderful effects of irrigation under the fervid sun of this rich climate. The whole of this gentleman's estate, indeed with little exception the whole country, can be watered at pleasure. The copious and pure streams issuing from the Pyrennees, from their source to their union with the Mediterranean, are most economically and skilfully directed to

this purpose. On the mountain sides, the streamlets, as they trickle from the rocks, are collected into channels above every little portion of arable, which they render surprizingly fruitful. These rills uniting form larger streams; and these, with great labour and ingenuity, are kept up by artificial channels, and only suffered to descend as they perform the office of irrigation. The same attention is paid to the larger streams united, which become a considerable river in the lower lands of Rousillon. This is divided and subdivided, unites, and is again divided, so that every portion of the surface seems to enjoy its due share. The soil of Rousillon is sandy, and apparently not very rich; but, by the joint influence of water and sun, vegetation is vigorous beyond any thing I had ever before witnessed. Where a mountain side, or a portion of the lower land, is so situated as to be inaccessible to the water, it is planted with vines, to which watering is not applicable, as it injures the quality of the wine without increasing the quantity sufficiently to compensate. On the contrary, to olives irrigation may be applied with prodigious advantage, an instance of which came under my observation. This crop has generally failed owing to the extraordinary coldness of the

early part of summer; and one half of a large olive ground was, like the rest of the country, without fruit; the other half, which had been watered several times, was laden to a degree equal to the most plentiful season.

How this country, and other vallies of the Pyrennees, were originally laid out so judiciously, with channels of irrigation systematically arranged for the benefit of the whole, is a mystery I have not heard explained. A master's hand seems to have planned and executed all, before the appropriation of the soil; otherwise private interest would have interfered, and marred the design. However that may have been, every man now finds a "Canal d'arrosement" passing above his field, and a "Canal de dessé chement" at the bottom; which latter is the "Canal d'arrosement," in its turn for the land below.

The manner of applying the water is extremely simple. A dam is made across the upper channel, from which the water flows gently into a furrow made by the plough along the higher side of the field, and in a few hours soaks through the whole soil, until it reaches the lower side, which completes the operation.

The following, which is one of the usual

practices of the district, may shew what this amphibious husbandry can effect. In August, they *scratch* the wheat stubbles with their little Roman plough, which does not turn a furrow, nor move a fourth of the surface; they then sow annual trefoil, which they cover very slightly by planking, that is, drawing a plank, on which a boy rides, over the land; thus breaking the clods and smoothing the surface. This is equivalent to our rolling, as the scratching is to our ploughing. The weeds and stubble are but little affected by this process of ploughing and planking; however, that matters not, for the water is now introduced, the trefoil starts as it were instantaneously, and in October or November is knee deep, and fed off by the sheep. Water is applied from time to time, and in January or February it is fed again; and lastly, in May, it is mown for hay, a heavy crop! Immediately as the hay is removed another scratch is given, millet or haricos are sown; irrigation goes on, the crop is reaped, and the ground receives four ploughings as a preparation for another crop of wheat, to be sown in October or November. This is the history of one year, under familiar and constant practice: I saw it in progress throughout the country.

Indian corn is sown in May, to be cut green for the oxen and mules at this time. More is just coming up, which will be applied to the same purpose in December.

Millet is grown for the Spanish market, in Catalonia, where it is eaten as bread-corn.

Lying between the Pyrennees and the Mediterranean, Roussillon enjoys mountain gales and sea breezes, with the fertility of a southern vale; and, what adds much to the delights of this paradise, a happy peasantry. M. ——— confirmed my general observations on this head. He also informed me that it was usual for a youth of sixteen to hire himself as a domestic servant in agriculture; and, when he arrives at twenty-one or twenty-two, to have laid up 400 or 500 franks, £18 or £20 sterling. With 400 franks, he buys a cottage and marries; his wife has probably a little portion. He has an opportunity also of buying 1500 square toises (nearly an acre and half English) of uncultivated mountain land, rocky and poor, but fit for vines: for this he pays fifteen or twenty franks, and becomes a proprietor; having a constant resource of profitable industry, in winter, when work may be scarce. Wages, in the busy season (which is of pretty long duration, including harvest and threshing, then the vintage, and afterwards the olives), 40 sous and board, women

25 sous, without board. The allowance of board is 3lb of bread, 1lb of meat, besides vegetable dishes, such as haricos, &c. and three bottles of wine, per day: in harvest and threshing, six bottles of wine. The pound, French, is about equal to 18 ounces, English. Threshing or treading, as it is performed in the large way by M. ——— is a grand operation. He hires for this purpose twenty-four horses; for which, and their drivers, he pays, in kind, three sacks per hundred of the grain threshed; and fifteen men at 40 sous per day and their board, which is equal to 40 sous more. With this force they thresh, of wheat, from 120 to 180 bags of 200lb per day: at an average of 150 bags per day, and reduced to English weight and measure it costs about 4d per bushel. Every thing in this climate is so dry and elastic that it is not easy to estimate how much might be performed by a powerful threshing machine; but I think nearly double in proportion to the men and horses employed in treading. Such is the stability of the climate, that this process is going on in the open air through the whole country without any means of protection against a sudden change. Indeed, a soaking night's rain would be of no consequence, as a day's sunshine would set all to rights. I was upon the threshing floor very early in the morning, after a

cool and rather damp night. There was a large heap of fifty or sixty quarters, which had been winnowed the preceding day; on plunging my hand into it, I was astonished to find that just within the surface, it was absolutely hot with the sunshine of the day; merely the outside being cooled by exposure to the night air. A heavy shower upon this heap of wheat, would have evaporated in a very short time. The straw before they have done with it is reduced almost to chaff, intentionally, as I observed about Bessenaz. It is remarkable that in no single instance that came under my notice, were oxen used for this purpose, though almost exclusively for every other operation in agriculture.

This gentleman has a large flock of Merinos which do him credit; they are good sheep, fine woolled, and in high condition; more like a well managed English flock than any I had seen in France; straw forms a material part of the maintenance of this flock at all seasons, even in summer. I am persuaded that the straw of this climate partakes more of the quality of hay, than ours. The wife of one of the labourers was *about*, and seemed perfectly hearty, five days after her confinement! This is the land of fruitfulness, of all kinds.

"*August* 23.—From Perpignan to Prades, 21

miles: ascending towards the mountains, or rather between them, up a charming valley, cultivated like a garden and watered through its whole extent. The people are collected into large villages. These mountains are not dotted over with little happy dwellings like those which border the Rhone; but they are cultivated to their summits, exhibiting wonderful instances of persevering industry. The inhabitants of a frontier district would be likely to establish themselves in groups, for mutual protection.

The vale farmers are busy sowing lupines or annual trefoil, on their wheat stubbles, for winter food for their flocks. Many of the hedges on this road are composed chiefly of pomegranate.

Prades, August 25.—We have spent two laborious but pleasant days in visiting Canigou, the chief of the Eastern Pyrenees. The first day we marched to the Herdsman's Barrack, where we lodged in a sort of Calmuck style; ten in number, including the herdsman's family, crawling into a circular hut about nine feet in diameter. The bottom was covered with broom for bedding, which apparently was not often changed. This hut is constructed with some ingenuity of blocks of granite: being circular, and contracting gradually from the base to the apex, it stands self supported. The upper part has the interstices stopped to exclude the rain,

but the lower is open to every blast. Not an article of furniture except a log of fir, which separates the fire and the entrance hole (for there is no door) from the bed of broom, and a stick here and there between the stones of the wall: on these are suspended among the smoke a leathern bottle, a wallet, a powder horn, or a bag of shot, &c. When driven in by the storm we placed ourselves in close order on the log. Keeping up a blaze with boughs of pine, we smoked our cygars and chatted, and sang a few mountain ditties, till, one by one, as night drew on, we dropped into the couch behind us, leaving the herdsman and the ladies, who kept it up till 11 o'clock. He then suddenly calls out "Dormons," and starting up begins to make room by belabouring with a stick, as if he would have broken their bones, two or three poor sleeping boys, who lay a little athwart, and took more room than their share. After adjusting them, he proceeded to the rest of us, saying, "une place pour tous; une place pour tous;" and so he placed us side by side, as many as could lie in one direction, and the others across, over and among the legs of the first. The night grew very tempestuous, with thunder and rain: gusts of wind frequently found their way through the door way, and carried the ashes and the live embers over us as we lay; but worse than all

were the myriads of fleas, which, in spite of our host's attention to the accommodation of his guests, would allow us but little rest. Unfortunately, the storm continuing, we could not escape from the filthy hole. However, we rose early, and had a pleasant repast of bread and new milk, before we started for the summit; and at our return, the women had provided abundance of wild raspberries, which relished well with our bread and wine.

I am satisfied that no description can convey to the mind the grandeur, the vastness of a mountain; especially when seen in the magnificent array of its own clouds, as we saw Canigou. The day was unfavourable for distant prospects, but the majesty of the mountain was heightened by the concealment of every other object, except the neighbouring snowy summits. The pic. is of difficult ascent; it is 1440 toises, (about 9000 English feet) above the Mediterranean. A small iron cross is fixed on the highest point. I expected to have found the summit a naked crag: on the contrary, it is covered with loose fragments, the ruins, as it should seem, of a rock once higher. The high cliffs of Canigou are of that sort of granite called gneiss. There are many wild goats among the rocks, and some bears, as we were informed. The herdsman had shot three of the former the

day we arrived. Wolves are not very rare. In the winter nights they frequently prowl about the streets of Prades. The herdsman has under his care about a hundred head of cattle, cows and oxen; and a large herd of horses; which do great credit to their pasture. They are collected every night round the hut, and roam at their pleasure over these solitary regions through the day. They are the property of different people in the neighbouring communes, who pay the man for his attendance, and a small acknowledgment for the pasture to government, to whom this mountain belongs. It formerly belonged to a Spanish convent; and, I believe on that account, was not sold with the National Domains.

Mont Louis, August 26.—We congratulated each other this morning on having paid our visit to Canigou yesterday; his upper regions being white with snow which fell during the night. The road from Prades to this place is ascending the whole way through an opening between vast masses of granite and schist, forming a deep and rugged valley, down which tumbles the river Tec with astonishing rapidity. About a league from Prades is Ville Franche, a fortified town, beyond which there is no passage for wheel carriages. Through all this valley is an union of the beautiful and the sublime, of which

I before had no conception. At every turn, the mountains and their attendant stream present themselves under fresh combinations of grandeur and beauty; and, to crown the whole, from the head of the valley is a view of surprising magnificence along the entire vista; Canigou in all his majesty closing the prospect,—the Sovereign of the mountains! So he is stiled in a Catalonian song, which we heard from some girls who were singing his praises, as we passed one of the villages in our way.

Here every spot is cultivated that is accessible to human industry. A few square yards of soil is propped by a wall, and a little rill conducted along the upper side to insure its fertility. Wheel carriages are wholly unknown; every thing is conveyed on mules and asses; and where these cannot go on account of the steepness, they carry even the manure in baskets on their own backs.

The women wear long hoods; the men, red caps, crimson sashes, and sandals. They are almost Spaniards both in language and dress. Trains of mules, with their numberless bells and crimson trappings, convey the traffic of this populous country. There are large tracts of excellent arable land about Mont Louis, notwithstanding its great elevation. The crops are luxuriant, though backward in ripening. The

barley beautiful and still perfectly green. Near the town are 500 acres of well watered meadow.

Aug. 27.—Walked from Mont Louis to Migenés, over a country mountainous, but cultivated for the most part to very great perfection. Large clusters of houses, forming dirty but populous villages, are scattered over a surface the most broken and unpromising to the husbandman; yet, by the inchantment of irrigation, as fruitful as a well-soiled plain. On an extensive tract, which appears to be out of the reach of that improvement, is a noble forest of pines. Near Mont Louis granite prevails; then schist for some miles; afterwards decomposing granite forms a fruitful soil over a large space around the village of Migenés.

I am every where struck with the appearance of oxide of iron, where the rocks, of whatever character, are giving way. Iron, which as forming the integrant part of rocks, usually occurs in the form of an oxide, seems to be the great agent in this change, so important to man. By exposure to the action of air and water, it becomes still more highly oxidated, and passing into the state of a powder, tends gradually to the disintegration of rocks, and by degrees renders their component parts suitable for the labours of the husbandman. Perhaps iron is the most universally diffused of all substances in

the mineral kingdom; and though in itself unfavourable to vegetation, it seems, by chemical agency, to become one of the greatest promoters of fertility. As the colouring matter of minerals, it is found in combination with almost every particle; and being, under certain circumstances, generally susceptible of a higher state of oxidation, it is perpetually working a revolution even among the mountains, which have been thought as enduring as the globe itself. It is remarkable also that this grand agent of disintegration, under other circumstances, is cementing loose fragments, and forming a new rock from the ruins of the old. Of this there are many instances in this country; one in particular, which is very remarkable, about four miles north of Ax.

Aug. 28.—We had a laborious march over a very high region from Migenés to Ax. Much snow, as hard as ice, is collected in many of the hollows. The verdure of the turf, to the very edge of the snow, is remarkable. This district of the Pyrennees, too elevated for culture, affords excellent pasture. The rocks are chiefly schistus. Ax is a mean town, though noted for hot sulphureous springs, which are resorted to by a considerable number of invalids.

Aug. 29.—From Ax we descended about twelve miles to Tarascon, a little town delight-

fully situated on the Arriège, at the confluence of several vallies and their streams. Here the granite and schist of the higher regions, give place to stratified rocks of limestone. These vallies are perfect gardens. In the evening we walked to a forge about four miles west of the town; we reached it about sun-set, but unfortunately it was not at work. However the beauty of the scenery amply repaid us. We were completely among the mountains; the snow remaining in many of the hollows near their summits. They are chiefly calcareous in this neighbourhood; and covered with vineyards almost to the edge of the snow. The contrast is so great between the products of the soil, and the rugged wildness of the surrounding crags: between the balmy air you are breathing, and the wintry prospect; that you are ready to suspect an illusion of the senses. On our return, whilst the rich tint of the departed sun remained in the west, with a glow unknown in our chilly latitude; the moon, appearing over a dark cloud, threw the shadow of one huge cliff upon the bosom of another, and produced such a scene of sublime tranquility as no poet or painter could describe. The ear, too, partook of the enchantment from the roaring of the mountain streams.

Aug. 30.—Left my companions at Ussat, two

miles from Tarascon (enjoying the hot baths at three sous a time) and, mounting an excellent poney, visited the iron-mine of Vicdessos; which is situated very high in the mountains, about fifteen miles to the south-west, and not far from the frontier of Spain. I rode to the village of Vicdessos, about twelve miles, up a charming valley, and from thence had two hours climbing before I reached the mine. On my arrival, two of the miners offered themselves as guides, and I proceeded with them to explore the interior. They conducted me, through passes, in many places very narrow and steep, descending some hundred fathoms, to the "chantiers," the places where the ore is dug; which, by the dim glimmer of the lamps, seemed to be vast excavations. Up these passages the ore is brought, with amazing toil, on their backs: some carry 100 lb. some 120 lb. and some even more; according to their strength.

This mine is the property of Government. There are 400 persons at work in it, under inspectors, but paying themselves by the sale of the ore to the forge-masters. It is miserably wrought; without a single improvement, I should suppose, since the days of Julius Cæsar. The ore is rich, and, containing calcareous spar, is reduced to metal without the addition of any other substance. It lies very irregularly, under

limestone of a schistose appearance. The mass of ore is in some parts upwards of sixty feet in thickness. Like the peasantry, the miners are mostly proprietors of land. The whole surface of the mountain is divided in patches of different dimensions; all cultivated and watered with the utmost assiduity, and clothed with luxuriant vegetation.

Aug. 31.—From Tarascon to Foix; still descending towards the plain, through a romantic rocky vale. From Foix to Pamier; no longer mountainous, but alluvial hills of quartzose sand, or of schist assuming the character of clay, with some calcareous rocks. From Pamier we pass over a vast sandy flat, bounded by sand hills of poor quality, to the Garonne, which we cross by a ferry two leagues above Toulouse. Here the land is richer, and as we approach Toulouse, is extremely fertile. Two strong oxen yoked by the horns to the beam of a light plough, of pretty good construction, the ploughman driving them by means of a long staff which answers the double purpose of a goad and a paddle, are performing their work in a style which some English farmers might envy. This is an improvement on the poor little implement drawn by a pair of light cows, on the Pyrennees: I note it with pleasure, being the only district in which I have seen good ploughing since we

left Normandy. The course of husbandry appears to be extremely simple;—on the poor lands, wheat; fallow? on the rich, wheat; Indian corn. The latter, when well managed, is an excellent practice: the former, an extremely bad one under any management.

Having quitted the Pyrennees, and entered on a district, where, instead of small fields, numerous villages, and a thick population, are large towns large divisions of land, and fewer people; I have to remark, on taking leave of my mountain friends, that their poverty is more in appearance than reality. They have frugal habits; and consider as luxuries, some things which may perhaps be among the necessaries of life in the estimation of their lowland neighbours. They are not an alms-taking indigent peasantry; but laborious and independent; living upon little, and heedless how: but nothing of the negligence which is the constant companion of hopeless poverty, is discoverable in their *fields*; on the contrary, these are cultivated with garden-like exactness. Their lands and their cattle shew that they are far removed from beggary and want. In the richer tracts, where their little estates are productive with moderate toil, the inhabitants are living in great plenty and comfort.

Those beautiful and fertile vallies which

converge at Tarascon, seem to unite lowland abundance with mountain simplicity.

Sept. 1.—Toulouse is large and well-built, but horribly filthy. It contains 67,000 inhabitants, and has much the appearance of prosperity. How the people of this place, and of some others in the South of France, can tolerate the detestable stench of their own nuisances, is marvellous.

Sept. 2.—Montauban is a good and cleanly town, of 28,000 inhabitants, with a thriving manufacture of silks and woollens. Between Toulouse and Montauban is much poor white sand, which is cultivated with wheat and fallow alternately. On the better soil, Indian corn, well managed with plough and hoe, is a substitute for the fallow. The plough good, and work well performed by two oxen. A plank used insead of a roller, as in Rousillon. In many fields, men and women were employed in stripping the Indian corn of the leaves and tops, which are tied in bundles as fodder for the oxen. I have seen no clover and very little lucern since we entered the plain. Few flocks are to be seen in the country. In their poor land they make no provision, and in their good land they leave no room, for a summer flock. 'Round Toulouse, for some leagues, the land is chiefly cultivated by large proprietors. The few small plots which appear to be in the possession of the

peasants are badly managed. Between Montauban and Costades, is an agreeable variety of hill and dale. On this road we meet droves of mules daily, passing from Auvergne, where they are bred, to supply the Spanish market.

Sept. 3.—We proceeded from Costades to Ville-franche. At Caylus is a stratum of chalk between strata of lime-stone. A circumstance I have noticed in several places in this country; but I believe no such instance occurs in Great Britain. Ville-franche is a large, mean town, in a delightful situation.

Sept. 4.—By Figeac to Maurs, a fine romantic country. About Maurs, schist prevails, after an extensive tract of lime-stone. We now ascend for many miles; the road winding in an extraordinary manner through beautiful glens, towords Aurillac. About half way there is granite, then schist again. Maurs is a pleasant looking place, but wants that active industry which renders Aurillac the most thriving little town I have seen in France: it is full of busy workshops; cutlers, copper-smiths, curriers, shoemakers, tanners; all following their occupations with that sort of spirit which implies and insures prosperity. There is a Haras or Depot de chevaux, at Aurillac, for the supply of the royal stud. It contains, in royal stables (formerly a convent) about thirty-five horses: several of

them are chargers of the late Emperor. His famous white Arabian (Superbe) is of the number. This horse is now old; but has been a grand figure, as his name implies. There are some beautiful specimens of the breed of this district.

Sept. 6.—Proceeding northward from Aurillac, is a vein of chalk in a situation where I should least have looked for that substance. Immediately we enter on a mountainous country, of great extent, covered with volcanic remains; reaching, in the direction of our route, with little intermission, to Clermont; how far east and west of this line, I know not. Great part of this tract is extremely rugged, and unimprovable, the whole surface being covered with blocks of granite or basalt; and the roads are so rocky that, although we had a carriage, riding was but of the question. There are however some considerable tracts where the soil is good, and cultivated in a superior manner, with wheat or rye, and buck-wheat alternately. The latter being of rapid growth, allows them an interval between harvest and seed time, sufficient for the necessary tillage; and the land is generally clean and in good condition. There are also tracts of excellent pasture, with numerous herds of cattle, but very few sheep. A small flock here and there, a third of them black, kept, as it should seem, in numbers just sufficient to produce wool

for their home manufacture of coarse cloth, as I imagine is the general case through the middle and south of France. Here also, plots of hemp are very frequent, proportioned like their flocks, to their own wants merely. Mountain poverty is visible among the peasants; both sexes hobbling about among the rocks in wretched sabots with high heels; they acknowledge they are bad things to walk in, but they are *cheap*. The women wear small bonnets, and brass plates, like fillets, round their heads. Tails and immense round hats are the fashion for the men and boys. I saw a boy of four years old with a large hat, and a tail a foot long, tied up with a leather thong. I suppose his hair had not been cut from his birth: perhaps they have some superstition about hair cutting, and tails follow of course.

A stratum of basalt seems to have covered a large part of this volcanic district, the remains of which are seen on every eminence forming horizontal crests on the same level. Near St. Chamant some masses of this substance which have evidently been broken off from the main rock, appear to have been detached and thrown out of their perpendicular position before the fused matter had acquired consistency, that is, before it was perfectly cooled; the columns being bent in an extraordinary manner.

On examining the basalt of this country, and comparing it with the blocks of granite and schist, which every where accompany it, and have undergone the action of fire, in every degree up to a substance no way distinguishable from basalt, except in form, I think it impossible to doubt the agency of fire in its production. These antediluvian volcanic remains extend over a space of several thousand square miles. The basalt was probably a stratum of granite fused by a subterraneous fire without being ejected from its native bed, and acquired its prismatic form from the circumstances attending the cooling. The conical hills, which form the chief ornament of this interesting and romantic district, appear to be rocks of basalt, which have crumbled and shivered down, until they have assumed their present shape. I ascended one of these cones, called La Tour d'Auvergne, from an old castle on its summit, which was evidently of this character. Among the scoriæ, about 3 leagues from Clermont, are the charred remains of many trees. No appearance of a crater was to be observed any where.

The volcanic origin of basalt has been doubted from the circumstance of a small stratum of coal being found between two of basalt: but I do not conceive it more difficult to reconcile this fact, than that of the trees above mentioned.

During our march over this mountainous tract the mornings were extremely cold. On the 4th of September the fields were white with hoar frost, as in the middle of winter. Many fields of oats, and even of wheat, were perfectly green. But, on descending to Clermont, we found ourselves suddenly in a warm southern climate, surrounded by vineyards; such is the effect of elevation on the temperature. Thus, at Perpignan, harvest ended in July: at Mont Louis, forty miles south west, barley was green, without the least appearance of ripening, on the 26th of August!

Sept. 9.—Clermont is a well built and pleasant town, containing 30,000 inhabitants. It is situated in one of the most fertile districts of France, a deep hazel mold on a basis of soft limestone. It is cropped every year, mostly with wheat; yet it appears to be clean and in high condition, and the stubbles denote excellent crops. On this rich land, I was informed that turnips are often sown after wheat, and that they grow large enough to draw for cattle. As August had passed this year without a shower, I imagine they had entirely failed;—nothing like a turnip field was to be seen through the whole country, nor in any part of France from our landing to this place.

Here we took our places in the diligence for Montargis: travelling day and night, and making

nearly a blank space of two hundred miles. On our road we observed the elms in many places under the process of lopping, whilst in perfect foliage, as fodder for the sheep in winter. They are lopped once in three years; and the two intervening years they are stripped of their leaves to make an infusion for the cows. Both these operations were in full activity over a great space of country; men lopping the trees, and women stripping them.

Paris, Sept. 15.—After three days of repose and social enjoyment with our friends at ——, we find ourselves again in this vast city. It is an object too great for the study of the passing traveller. However, in the fortnight which we allow ourselves, we shall see a great deal to amuse, and something, I doubt not, to instruct and improve us.

I prefer the country character of France to that of the city. In the former, the good fruits of the Revolution are visible at every step: previous to that æra, in the country, the most numerous class, the bulk of the population, all but the nobles and the priests, were wretchedly poor, servile and thievish. This class has assumed a new character, improved in proportion to the improvement of its condition. Servility has vanished with their poverty; their thievishness, an effect of the same cause, has also in great

measure disappeared. But there is a selfishness and avarice, too prevalent in the general character of the people; which may be natural to their present state of society, from the virtues of industry and economy in excess. I question if a proportionate amelioration has taken place among the Parisians, a sort of insulated nation, who know very little, and seem to care as little, about the rest of France.

With a restrained press and education under the direct influence of government, I should think very meanly of French political liberty, under any form of government; I could not long breathe in an atmosphere so dense and polluted. Not a pamphlet is exhibited by the booksellers except on the side of the prevailing politics: nothing of liberal discussion existing, except by contraband. Every paragraph in the public journals is modelled and pared down to suit the temper of the Tuilleries, whatever that temper may be,—to-day: just so, it would be adapted to an opposite temper to-morrow.

Sunday, Sept. 18.—Being a day of fête at St. Cloud I joined all Paris in toiling through the heat and dust to visit the favourite abode of Buonaparte. Here we walked through a few rooms, and saw a few fountains. The young men and maidens diverted themselves with blind man's buff, and many other games; and we all

returned—fatigued and contented. "Never were people entertained, or provided with occupation, at so cheap a rate as the Parisians. This I had often heard; and the hundred thousand individuals, who found themselves well satisfied with the amusements of this day, proved it. I was struck with a medallion on the base of an urn of great beauty in a saloon at St. Cloud: the figure apparently the late Emperor, restraining a wild horse, which he has caught by the under jaw, with the inscription "Vaganti tandem imponitur frænum;" meaning, I suppose, French liberty. Though a symbol of Napoleon's tyranny, it is the most beautiful work of art I ever beheld.

As we were taking our refreshment at a restaurateurs in the village of St. Cloud, the Duchess of Angoulême arived in a state coach with eight horses, and was met, directly opposite to our window, by an open landau and six, which was to convey her to the palace. She charged carriages among an immense crowd, who paid her very little attention. This moved the choler of a flaming royalist of our company, and led to a political discussion, which afforded me fresh reason to observe how surprizingly little is known, by this party in Paris, of the Revolution in the French character which has really taken place. They are so dazzled by their own

gaudy city, that they think but lightly of the twenty-six millions of independent inhabitants of France who are not in the Parisian circle. Paris is the punctum saliens, the organ of political feeling; elsewhere political feeling is absorbed in the love of tranquility. The court may seem to be of the same importance as under the ancien regime; when the peasantry were a mere number, and the nobility and the church were the French nation, of which the court was the centre. The fact however is now far otherwise: it is the indifference and not the insignificance of the people which now gives consequence to the politicians of the Tuilleries. Should that indifference be rouzed, the charm will be broken.

Sept. 19.—There was a magnificence about Buonaparte which carries you away in defiance of your sober judgment. To day I gained a sight of the astonishing colossal elephant, which was to have been elevated on the scite of the Bastile; from which a grand street was projected to the front of the Louvre, through the whole length of the city. The canal of Ourque, a grand work of his for the supply of Paris with water, was to have formed a fountain through the proboscis of the elephant. It is said that he invited the artists to furnish him with designs for a monument, to be erected on this spot, and having re-

ceived them, he proposed his own of the elephant, which was characteristic of its author, but will probably never be completed. Wherever you turn is some majestic monument of his taste. In fact, the grandeur of Paris was his creation, and you now see workmen busy in all parts, scratching out his name and defacing his eagles. This is very pitiful. The Bourbons, in their attempts to disgrace Napoleon by pulling down his statues and obliterating the ensigns of his power, are directing their attack against his least vulnerable part, and inviting a comparison greatly to their own disadvantage. He executed many great works of lasting utility, and many of amazing splendour. Under his auspices the internal government of the country was wise and effectual: property was sacred, and crimes were rare, because they could not be committed with impunity. It was through the madness of his external policy that his tyranny had become intolerable; for this he drained the best blood of his people, and sacrificed the commerce and manufactures of France; and to render the nation subservient to his ambition he laboured to enslave it. Let his successors pursue an opposite course: let them study peace, encourage commerce, and cherish liberty; then they will have no rival in Buonaparte. I think there is not in France any political party in his interest.

If we view France at large, apart from the busy politicians of the metropolis, nine-tenths of the people will be republicans when put to the test. To the Republic they owe all they possess of property and independence; but their only present prayer is for repose and security. Let the restored monarch look to this. There is a strong party in favour of tranquility; but very little love for royalty out of the immediate circle of the court. Touch, or only threaten, the present arrangement of property, and such a fermentation will be excited in the republican mass, as will shake Paris, and "discover its foundations."

With regard to the late Emperor, there seems to be no cement by which a party can be united for him. Many, no doubt, have lost situations of profit which they held under his government. The host of officers of revenue, and of all the departments of state who have been displaced; these naturally regret the power which nourished them; but they are now mere individuals, who, with their places, have lost much of their influence. The army too may regret him; but it had suffered so deeply by his latter madness, that I really believe, highly as they respect him in character of General, they do not wish for exactly such a leader. Beside, a large part of the army is now re-settled in good pay and quarters under the

present government; and there is little prospect of Napoleon's being in a situation to stand forward as a rallying point for the discontented among the remainder. A good lesson this for the present king. The fermentation of twenty-five years has purged off that mystical affection called loyalty, (so serviceable to kings and governments, that they have classed it among the cardinal virtues of a good citizen), and they will value their government like other things, according to its usefulness. Their experience has given them more to fear than to hope from their rulers: reverse it, and they need not fear a competitor, though backed by all the potentates of Europe.

In speaking of parties I had forgotten the brood of priests which is hatching in all quarters. These are objects of derision and disgust wherever they appear. Their contracted shoulders, inclined heads, and hands dangling from their weak wrists, together with their immense hats and long camblet gowns, give them a sneaking demeanour, which contrasts most unfavourably with the erect gait and manly air of all other descriptions of people. It is a miserable thing that a class of men, born like their fellows, "Vultu erecto conspicere cœlum," should be so debased by bigotry or hypocrisy. Religion, that most sublime relation, which con-

nects man with his Maker, must ennoble the character; yet, strange to tell, these cringing attitudes have been a successful mean of operating on the imaginations of the ignorant a belief of their sanctity. I am happy in the conviction that no pretensions of this, or any other sort, will reconcile the people of France to the restoration of tithes or ecclesiastical domination.

The ci-devant priory of St. Martin is now a *conservatory* of arts and manufactures. Here are models of implements of agriculture, including those in common use in different districts, and the modern improvements or attempts at improvement. Among these curiosities are some models of threshing machines, in which the mechanics have proceeded no further than to put in motion a set of flails. I recognize in this collection many implements, particularly ploughs, which I have seen at work as we passed. The spirit of invention is hardly at work among the French farmers. Poverty shifts with things as they are: capital looks for improvement. I have visited this collection twice, and it is with regret I acknowledge that I did not bring away one idea worth recording. Agricultural implements form but a small part of the establishment: it contains every machine, I imagine, which is in use in the silk and cotton manufacture. One room contains not models, but a

complete set of machinery, which is under the care of a professor, and regularly at work, for the instruction of pupils in the art of spinning cotton. Here are also deposited numberless specimens of curious inventions in mechanics, in philosophical instruments, and in every branch of arts and manufactures. It is open on particular days of the week to the public; and *every day to foreigners*. Such is the liberal spirit of the nation; exemplified not in this institution only, but universally. Those of my countrymen who have been *driven* through the British Museum, or conducted through any other place of exhibition at home, can put a proper value on this generous treatment. I once visited the galleries of natural history in the Jardin des Plantes on a public day: it was amusing to see the crowd, mostly of what is called the lower order, which thronged the rooms; and edifying to observe their decorum, and the interest they took in examining every thing.

At the menagerie in the Jardin des Plantes, I met always a number of English; but I had the advantage of hearing only two of the observations which this noble museum of living curiosities gave rise to. The first was on a baboon: "A d——'d queer specie by G—d!" This, repeated three times with an ascending climax,

included all that my countryman could think or say upon the subject. The second was on the elephant, which exhibited proofs of intelligence as astonishing as his great bulk. "D——n the fellow, he can't run much." I remarked in reply, happening to be nearest the speaker, that I had read of their moving on certain occasions with great swiftness: "Yes, of course," replies my countryman, "but, d——n the fellow, I could get away from him, I know." The animals in this collection are very healthy, and seem to enjoy themselves. The elephant has the range of a building and palisadoed yard, in which he can exercise himself. And there are many paddocks where the harmless animals are very comfortably accommodated: among them are curious specimens of deer, and several varieties of the goat and sheep tribe. Of the latter, a ram and ewe, from Africa I believe, bearing a short coat of glossy brown hair; without the least tendency to wool: thus, the sheep is not necessarily a wool bearing animal. There is a large collection of lions, tigers, hyenas, wolves, bears, and abundance of the monkey tribe. There are pools for water fowls in great variety, and many other rare birds, especially a large assemblage of the falco order; favourites I presume of the late Emperor.

Profligate fools are intolerable at home; but

when they travel they become tenfold more detestable. There are men who talk familiarly of Rome and Naples, and Genoa; but know nothing, imitate nothing, but the follies and vices of those places. I have been doing penance at a table d'hôte, where two of these miserables were displaying their acquirements. Virtuous and honorable men are improved by travelling, whilst these fellows are still more corrupted by it.

Sept. 22.—Was present at a sitting of the Corps Legislatif. The room is one-fourth of a sphere, with eight rows of seats to hold 500 deputies, and galleries for the accommodation of 300 spectators. The seat of the president is in a recess opposite the centre, and raised to the level of the middle seats. Three secretaries are seated on each side of the president; somewhat lower, and before him, on a level with the secretaries, is the tribune, from which the deputies read their speeches. The president is distinguished by a white sash; and the members, with their gold collars and cuffs, have more the look of livery servants than of the representatives of a free people. The Salle de Pairs, or House of Lords, appears also to be a section of a sphere: it is a splendid room, but the echo is so great that they are obliged to disfigure it by curtains during the sittings. It contains seats

for 158 senators, but no galleries. Near the throne are twelve statues of Greek and Roman worthies. The approach is very noble: a staircase of white marble, which occupies the whole of a long gallery, ornamented by statues of men famous in modern France; among them is Vergniaux as haranguing the national assembly, and Condorcet in an attitude of thought.

Sept. 24.—Visited the Brie, a fruitful district to the east of Paris. Soil; clay, with chalk or marl beneath. It is well cultivated on the old system of fallow, wheat, oats. Average rent 16 francs, 13s. 4d. sterling per acre; and the impost, which is one-fifth of the rent, making about 17s. per English acre. The beautiful estate of our friend M —— ——, near Rosoy, is managed with accuracy and success by the intervention of clover and lucern; the latter of which stands six years. He has also a fine sheep pasture, a rare sight in France. He keeps a large flock of Merinos, of very good quality in wool and carcase. The whole flock is now under inoculation for the claveau; a disease which seems analagous to the small-pox in the human species. It is infectious, and when taken in the natural way frequently carries off great numbers; under inoculation, very few in comparison.

Sept. 28.—Versailles. This palace not having been a favorite residence of Buonaparte, was found by Louis in a neglected state, excepting the gardens, which have been well maintained. Fifteen hundred workmen are now employed in the repair of this immense structure. Le Petit Trianon, a short walk from the grand palace, is a small comfortable house, with delightful grounds, agreeably laid out in the English taste, with the exception of the sham village of uninhabited cottages; which is however no bad example of Imperial taste. There is a roundabout, like those at our fairs, on which, it is *said,* Napoleon was wont to be whirled about by four men who were concealed beneath. So childish are tyrants! Le Grand Trianon is a superb mansion.

Sept. 29.—Between Versailles and Rambouillet is a fine tract of land, with some farms of good size, from two hundred to four hundred acres. The soil, sand upon limestone (tupha) of excellent quality, light and fertile. Its value is pretty well ascertained, as it lets from 32s. to 42s. sterling per English acre, tax included, which, according to the price of produce, is equal to 64s. and 84s. in England.

The tillage is well executed. Lucern is grown to considerable extent, and some excellent clover. Fallows for wheat are, however, very pre-

valent, and dunged amazingly: I have rarely seen it half so thick in England. Very many of the oat stubbles, though clean, are without grass seeds. Hay is worth 45s. per load, of 18 cwt. In various parts of France I have been struck with the beautiful colour of their lucern hay. The green is not faded in the least; it is so vivid that one might almost believe it improved in drying. I have also had occasion to observe the perfection with which flowers are preserved for medical purposes; their hues as bright as when growing. These, however, are cured in stoves.

A tolerable double plough, which seemed by the marks of wear to be in regular use, was standing by the road side at a wheelwright's shop, on our way to Rambouillet; and the common plough of the country was of the better sort. The fine clover and lucern, and tares, and the general aspect of the fields on this road, denote a spirited and prosperous husbandry.

Sept. 89.—The estate or demesne of Rambouillet consists of near 3000 acres surrounded by a wall: of this, five or six hundred acres are arable, the rest mostly woodland. The arable is sandy; of middling quality. It appears to be well managed, if the total omission of the turnip crop be right: of this I am not prepared to decide; for although the soil is perfectly adapt-

ed to turnips, the dryness of the climate possibly may forbid their culture.

The flock, of which we have heard and read so much consists of 188 ewes, about 100 rams, and probably 100 young ewes, including the ewe lambs of the present year. The ewes are of good size, and their wool tolerably fine: they are free from all disease and in excellent condition. They are however very throaty, as this peculiarity of the Merino race is deemed an excellence and carefully encouraged by selection. The favorite ram, which the shepherd considered as a perfect animal, and perhaps the best that had been bred at Rambouillet, was chiefly remarkable for the *five* folds of his throat. He was inferior in fineness of wool to some others which were little noticed for want of this curious appendage. The best ewes in the flock, as the shepherd pointed them out, seem to owe their preference to the same qualification. I fancy the truth lies between the French and English taste in this particular. The very fine necked sheep often bear a scanty fleece; and extreme coarseness in that part is rarely accompanied by wool of the first quality.

The house at Rambouillet is a mere hunting box, but the stables are enormous.

Sept. 30.—On our return to Paris we visited the Royal Manufactory of Porcelain at Sevres.

Here we saw exquisite productions of art and genius; vases, tables, busts, &c. of thirty or forty thousand francs value; plates of ten or twelve guineas each. Any thing, however, but marks of a prosperous, busy, establishment. This kind of patronage, I imagine, overlays rather than cherishes manufacture.

Buonaparte seems to have been aware of the want of capital in masses to create manufactures. And he set about supplying the deficiency. In addition to the carpet manufactory, and the porcelain manufactory, which he inherited from his predecessors, he commenced iron-master, and I believe, cotton-spinner and sugar-baker; and, most ambitious of men! he even aspired to be the first of Merino breeders. But it would not do. A throne is not the genuine source of commercial and manufacturing prosperity.

Paris, Oct. 1.—In the Ancien Couvent des Petits Augustins, is a collection of ancient French monuments which were saved from destruction at the moment when the fury of the revolution was directed against all the symbols of superstition and tyranny. They are arranged according to their dates, in halls so constructed as to be illustrative of the style of architecture which prevailed in the thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries. They furnish an interesting study to the moralist and historian, as

well as to the antiquarian and the artist. But to me this collection appears still more valuable, as it shews the revolution in a light favourable to the liberality of the age we live in; and affords a slight trait of the real character of the revolution itself; which was good and mild in principle, though deformed by horrors foreign to its nature.

Whilst waiting for my passport of departure, at the Bureau of the Præfèture, many persons were receiving passports of removal from one section of Paris to another. A strictness of police of which I before had no conception. I imagine a register is kept of the inhabitants of every house; and from the arrangement of the numerous clerks in this long and commodious apartment, called the Bureau des Passports, I have no doubt but this important object is attained without difficulty or confusion. I presume passports are procured without much trouble or any expence to the parties: they are therefore not likely to be neglected by any but the evil disposed; and as general security is the aim, and in a great degree the result, of these seemingly severe regulations, they may be submitted to with cheerfulness. A police of this kind must prevent the existence of such hordes of banditti as infest our metropolis. Here can be no dark and inscrutable recesses,

where villains by profession may collect in a mass, and conspire against the public. This is the fair side. How much these regulations favour political tyranny, I am not qualified to say; but here I suspect mischief. However, the clerks in this office appear to be a civil, respectable set, and much better employed in preventing crimes, and are probably better men, than the swarm of police officers, with us, who live by them; who, by overlooking small offences, nurse up the criminals to that eminence in guilt, which entitles the thief-taker to a reward. Security of person and property, two great ends of Society, are attained in a higher degree under the French than under the English system.

Prevention of crimes is the very spirit of the former, which pervades every place, and meets you at every turn. In the country, the Gardes champètres, a revolutionary institution, are the great means, always in activity, of crushing them in the egg. One or more of these officers is appointed in every commune, whose duty it is to prevent all petty depredations, and even trespasses out of the public paths. In every case they may arrest the offender, and carry him before the mayor of the commune, who levies a penalty

according to law. These men are always on the alert; armed, mostly with a pike, sometimes with a gun; and are authorized to use force in case of resistance. In towns, the preventive police is performed by the military, and most effectually. Being under the direction of the civil power, if such a force must be maintained, perhaps this is the best mode of employing it. The regularity and strictness of military discipline form the French soldiers into excellent civil guards; and the end is so beneficial that the means may well be tolerated.

The Gardes champètres are so watchful and alert, that they seem to possess a sort of ubiquity which is very effectual in preventing petty depredations. Walking up a hill from Corbeil, I strayed into a vineyard by the road side. The grapes were miserable; small as currants, and unripe. To plunder was the last thing I should have thought of; however I picked a little bunch. As I came out of the vineyard, a stout young fellow, with a pike in his hand, met me, and civilly enquired if the grapes were good. "Les raisins sont ils bons?" "Non," replied I. "Comme ça;" and shewed him the bunch I had gathered. You must go with me "a la Ville," says he, "devant le Maire." I

remonstrated—he threatened: at length he consented to let me off for a frank. This I should not have complied with if my company had not been forward and waiting for me; but would have paid the legal penalty before the mayor.

In the south, where vineyards are universal, the same degree of strictness would not have appeared in this particular, but the watchful spirit is perceived every where.

With a Government really Representative, such a police would not be an engine of oppression; and, to estimate its value in comparison with a vindictive police, such as that of England, we must consider the wretchedness of the agent of a criminal act, as well as the suffering of its object. Its watchful character renders pilfering unprofitable and dangerous, therefore it is not followed as a profession: a man rises to an accomplished villain by degrees, therefore the prevention of small offences hinders the commission of atrocious crimes.

Oct. 4.—After posting over the well known road from Paris to Boulogne, we are now on the point of embarking for Dover. Including the sinuosities of our course we have travelled about two thousand miles, without accident, or

insult. Beyond Montpellier we were the first English travellers who had pursued that route since the peace of Amiens. Having stripped off every rag of our country, and equipped ourselves from head to foot in travelling dresses, adapted to a hot climate and strong exercise, we were taken in turn for Germans, Russians, Italians, and Spaniards or Portuguese, and in those characters we received but a faint welcome: the moment, however that we declared ourselves English we were treated as friends. This partiality to our nation arose chiefly I think from the good report of our humanity to our numerous prisoners of war. During this long contest many individuals have had an opportunity of comparing our treatment with that of the Spaniards, infinitely to our advantage. I do not believe that there is among the French, a feeling of jealousy towards us, a sentiment of national rivalship, such as I am sorry to see cherished on this side of the water. They have no idea of the English and French being natural foes: the animosity which has been said to prevail between the two nations, they refer exclusively to the governments. This sentiment is so general, and does them so much credit, that I cannot forbear recording it.

In several points I found the French character different from what I had conceived it, from the common report. There is a sort of independence, an uprightness of manner, denoting equality and the consciousness of it, which I was not prepared for. This is sometimes, in the lower class, accompanied by something like American roughness, and is not altogether agreeable to our habits. In general however they are extremely attentive to good manners in their intercourse with each other, and with their superiors; but you may look in vain for that deference, bordering on servility, which we are accustomed to from our dependants; who are, notwithstanding, free-born Englishmen.

I have had constant occasion to remark the excellent condition of the labouring class; their decent respectable appearance. This was more than I had expected.

The decorum of manners in both sexes which prevails universally, surprised and delighted me beyond expression. Here are none of those exhibitions of profligacy, which disgust you at every step even in our country villages. No ragged wretches staggering home from a filthy alehouse. One drunken man, and but one, I saw in all my journey. Now, this is not to be

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attributed to abject poverty, absolutely depriving them of the means of intoxication, as might have been the case before the revolution: on the contrary, wine and brandy are cheap, and the earnings of the labourer are at least one third more in proportion than in England. Such is the habitual temperance of the description of people who with us are most addicted to drinking, that the inns, frequented by postillions and waggoners, seldom have any liquor stronger than their ordinary wine. If you call for brandy, they are obliged to send for it to the Caffé. The manager of an iron forge was describing to me the severe labour which the workmen performed before their immense fires: I enquired about their drinking. and he assured me that they never drank even their own weak wine without water.

Intimately connected with the temperance of the men is the modesty of the women, and equally exemplary.

A habit of economy and frugality accompanied by a perfect indifference to stile and shew, is another characteristic of the French nation, extending through all ranks; and entirely inconsistent with the fashionable frivolity which has been attributed to them.

I am a countryman, and it is France as a country that I came to visit and am describing, not Paris in particular. The exceptions to my statement will be found in the latter, where no doubt there are too many examples of every enormity. Yet Paris itself will bear me out when compared with London.

Among the circumstances of constant occurrence in which France differs totally from England, is the frequency of commons in the latter, whilst in the former there is no single instance which came under my observation, of what we call a common. No animal of whatever kind is suffered to graze at large in France, without an attendant. This regulation, though from the open state of the country absolutely necessary, occasions some inconvenience. You see a single cow, half a score sheep, or perhaps a single hog, followed by a boy, or girl, who might be better employed. Not unfrequently the cows, and the hogs, and the sheep of different people, are collected in some bye corner, and their keepers form a party almost as numerous as the animals they are tending. However the loss of time and misapplication of labour is reduced, in this economical country, by the universal practice of spinning or knitting, or pick-

ing hemp. Yor never see one of these females without some work or other in her hand.

There are some particulars in the habits and customs of the French in common life, which an Englishman would hardly tolerate after three apprenticeships. For instance,.

The habit of spitting up and down their houses and churches, not confined to the gentlemen.

The abominable custom of cheapening every article in dealing.

Their Voitures, *waggon-diligences,* and their carriages in general; with all their harness and trappings.

Their prodigious saddles, and bridles, and boots.

The Cabinets d'aisance; and, in some places, the utter want of them.

The streets, without flag causeways.

The stench of their populous towns, particularly in the South, for want of a cleanly police.

The frequent discharge from the windows.

The sabots, or wooden shoes.

The ceremony at meeting and parting—a little overdone.

The perfect abruptness with which domestics,

male, or female, enter your chamber on all occasions.

Their long meals, and countless dishes.

The lean mutton of 6lb. per quarter; and the leanness of the meat in general.

Cards and billiards all day long, for want of better employment.

The paucity and extreme barrenness of journals, from a restrained press.

The immense standing army, and the increasing number of priests.

The two last items are somewhat out of catalogue; but they deserve a place somewhere.

There are also a few circumstances and habits in which they excel the English.

Their drinking no healths, and their temperance in general.

Neatness in their linen, of every description.

Their great propriety of manners, and general politeness; including all ranks, but most remarkable in the lowest.

The good treatment and excellent condition of their *unmutilated* horses, of every sort.

The activity and consequent good health of the women.

The superior condition of the labouring class; and; as a set off against some political grievan-

ces, exemption from tithes, poor-rates; and, in comparison, from taxes.

Notwithstanding the nuisances, most horrible, in many of the French towns, there is in Paris a sort of military regulation, which is no bad thing. Within a certain number of yards of a centry-box, if a man commits what every unprotected nook of our public streets exhibits, the soldier on guard takes possession of the offender's hat, which he returns on receiving a frank; otherwise he retains it. I once saw a fellow who was performing without a hat, but the soldier seized him by the collar, and shook him to the full amount of the penalty.

There is something very striking to the traveller who passes rapidly through France, in the costumes of the peasantry, which occur from district to district. They are so distinctly marked, and even contrasted, that they seem to belong to different nations. Here you see round hats, measuring two feet across, with very shallow crowns; the hair long and lank: There, immense cock'd hats, and the hair *en queue*. Red caps, like jelly bags, hanging down their backs, on one side of the Pyrennees; purple ones on the other. The head dress of the women varies as much: there is the Norman cap, with

wings of snowy white, and the black hood of the South: the bonnets differing from each other as much as the hats of the men, in shape and size; some very large, covering their shoulders, and with high crowns, the brim turned up behind; some broad and flat, with crowns an inch deep; and some fitting the head, without any brim at all.

I had heard much of French beggars, and there are too many to be seen hovering around the post-houses, and on the hills of the great roads, especially north of Paris: they are mostly very old or blind people who follow begging as a profession, without exhibiting marks of extreme poverty, being often neatly, and even well, clad. Beggars seem to be an essential part of the Catholic system, affording occasion for the meritorious work of giving alms: but as the amount required to constitute a title to reward has not been exactly stated, very small coins are chiefly in request for that purpose, and people generally carry a store of them. One of my fellow travellers from Clermont, who was on his way to Paris, I believe, to purchase an estate, was a fine example of French economy, and Catholic charity united. He

gave a beggar a sous, and took back two liards in change.

It was a saying of Sully, that "Labourage et Pâturage sont les deux mammelles de la France," and it is a subject of curious observation to an Englishman, the direct way in which the people of this country are nourished by these two breasts. There are the little flocks; a third of which are black, and very coarse withal, yet furnishing the homespun woollens of the entire country population; and spun by the women who tend the sheep: the plots of hemp and flax, chiefly the former, which you see in all parts; from these they derive their abundant stock of sheets, table-linen, and shirts, spun also by themselves. There are the orchards in the north, and the vines in the south, supplying them with drink, and their arable land with food, in a way far more direct than we, in our complicated society, have any conception of. Our wool is collected by the stapler for the clothier; and the draper distributes it again in cloth for our wearing. The linen with us is of the same materials, but they are produced in Ireland perhaps, or in Russia. Our liquor may be the produce of our fields; but it loses the appropriate flavour of home in the hands of the maltster and the

public brewer. In France the arrangement is extremely simple, less calculated for the splendour of life, but it may be better adapted to its real enjoyments.

In the agriculture of France there is a great sameness. The arable land, which comprises almost the whole surface of the country, the vineyards, and a few tracts of mountain excepted, may be divided into five classes, according to its fertility, without regard to the nature of the soil. The first bears a crop every year, as in Auvergne, in the neighbourhood of Toulouse, in some parts of Normandy, &c. This description is highly cultivated, and on a principle well adapted to soil and circumstances. The second somewhat inferior in quality, but good land, is also judiciously cultivated, with the intervention of a fallow once in six years; as about Dieppe and Rouen. The third, land of middling quality, which embraces a very large part of the kingdom, is managed on the old plan of fallow, wheat, oats. The fourth, poor land, which also covers a large space, is fallow and wheat alternately. The fifth, land still poorer, is cultivated in the round of fallow, rye, rest, without grass seeds.

The first and second classes include what there

is of variety and spirit in French husbandry. In the South, Indian corn alternating with wheat exhibits management as good as the beans and wheat of the best English farmer: and the varied routine, observable in the north, affords many proofs of a spirited and judicious culture. It is the three last which betray its weakness: if they comprise half the cultivated surface, which I believe is not over-rating their extent, half of that portion being fallow, it appears that one-fourth of the whole country is lying in a state entirely unproductive, a few weeds, mostly thistles, excepted! A very few half-starved sheep are kept to pick over the constantly recurring barren fallows, often accompanied by three or four long-legged hogs. On the borders and out of the way corners you may see a cow or two with an attendant. But there appears so little for any of these animals to eat, that you wonder how even they are supported. The prairies artificielles (the artificial grasses as we less properly call them) of which so much is said by the amateurs, are like specks of green on a desert. Clover and lucern are cultivated with great success, on the two first classes of land; but very rarely indeed on the others. Thus there is probably as much really

waste land in France as in England, and it is of an expensive kind; whereas our wastes support much more stock than theirs, without any expense whatever. It has been said that it would be vain for the French to increase their flocks, because they have already as much mutton as they consume; and there would be no market for more. This sort of argument would hold equally against every other improvement. The price of mutton is fully in proportion to that of grain. Mutton is 5d. per lb. wheat 5s. per bushel. With us, mutton is 10d. per lb. and wheat 10s. per bushel. Cheese and butter rather exceed in price this proportion, beef is about the same. Thus it appears that stock pays as well in France as in England. The French sheep are chiefly remarkable for their long legs, thin carcases, and coarse wool. The same characteristics prevail from north to south, except that in the north they are larger, stouter, and bear finer fleeces; in fact, they are better treated than in the south. The best flocks we saw in the country were here and there one of the Spanish breed, which we took care to visit when we heard of them. We were anxious to obtain information respecting the Merinos of France, for which Buonaparte has done so

much; as we had been taught by the *knowing* on our side of the water. The history of our proceedings in this business is just a counterpart of theirs. In 1786 Louis XVI. established a flock at Rambouillet; the produce was at first given away, or thrown away, exactly as was the case in England. Here ends the first chapter. Recourse was then had to public sale, and the higher the prices, the more eager the purchasers. This high-priced stock was well attended to, and succeeded accordingly. Fine wool was produced and offered to the manufacturers, who did not meet the wishes and expectations, probably unreasonable ones, of the growers. This is the second chapter of their history: precisely like our own, but unfortunately for the French sheep-masters, it proved of much longer duration. The revolution came on, during which manufactures suffered, and the wool still lay upon hand. At length, in an evil hour, Buonaparte (whose ambition branched out in every possible shape) resolved to cover France with fine woolled flocks, and published his famous decree of the 8th of March, 1811: this gave the final blow to the Merinos. As soon as it appeared, all sales of sheep ceased,

and even agreements, which had been previously made, were set aside. From that time to the present the breed has been declining in France. An effort is now making in its favour, by a law which has just passed, allowing the exportation of wool and rams.

Boulogne, Oct. 4.—On entering France we endeavoured to lay in a stock of good humour which might last the journey; and I am happy to say we succeeded. This is the grand secret of travelling, as it is of living; the better your temper the greater your enjoyment. On quitting it, perhaps never to return, the friendly offices I have received from some, whose names would be an ornament to this little volume, are full in my recollection, and will be recurred to when I shall have rejoined my family circle, as the most pleasing incidents of this very pleasant tour.

It is due from us to add, that in the course of our enquiries on every topic we met with no instance of incivility; no reserve or appearance of suspicion. It was thus from the north to the extreme south; and in whatever direction we had shaped our course, I am satisfied we should have experienced the same kind re-

ception. And, in our own country, wherever an intelligent Frenchman shall present himself, prepared to communicate, and anxious to obtain information, he will be received as we were received in France; making some allowance for a degree of jealousy among the manufacturers, not incompatible with personal benevolence, but arising from particular circumstances which might render competition ruinous. A sufficient proof that we are not natural enemies! "Les peuples ne s' entrehäissent pas," as I heard many of the French exclaim. How long then shall forty millions of civilized people, in the two countries, remain the dupes of that wretched and disgraceful policy, by which governments foment perpetual rivalship and war, under the hackneyed plea of supporting social order and religion, and

> "Make enemies of nations who had else,
> Like kindred drops, been mingled into one."

Wanborough, Oct. 5.—Seated by my own fireside, I can hardly believe that yesterday I was posting in France. We were just three hours on our passage from Boulogne to Dover, where we arrived at four o'clock. Dined; (paid duty for a small portmanteau, containing fragments

of granite, &c. not *worth* a sous;) reached London at six this morning by the mail; and here we are at our happy, English, home.

FINIS.

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APPENDIX

Wanborough, Jan. 9, 1815.

AS the public has called for a second edition of this little work, I take advantage of the circumstance to add a few notes in explanation of some particulars which I am told are mentioned too slightly, or wholly omitted.

To those who have complained of its brevity, I beg to offer my acknowledgments, and to assure them that I was only desirous of placing my readers on a par with myself: possessing materials for much profitable reflection, and a curiosity excited rather than gratified,—the natural result of a hasty survey of such a country as France. A traveller passing over so large a surface, and viewing objects so numerous, all interesting, from their causes, their probable consequences, or their immediate influence on

the character and condition of the people, must confine his observations in great measure to the outlines, or he will be in danger of observing nothing to any useful purpose. There is hardly a subject which I have ventured to touch, but might have occupied in its details the whole of my canvas. My agricultural friends are aware of the time which is required to obtain a competent knowledge of the economy of a single district; and have seen writers of considerable pretensions to professional experience, who have miserably failed in describing the agriculture of a small English county. Indeed, I am convinced that on this subject (on which I might have enlarged with some confidence) as well as on every other, those who can best appreciate the little I have given, will be the least disposed to censure my forbearance.

I have been frequently asked about our expences; and much is said of the impositions to which travellers, especially English travellers, are exposed in France. The fact is, they expose themselves to imposition by a ridiculous affectation of indifference about expence, and often through actual ignorance of the relative value of money in the two countries. But you may escape very well, provided you accommodate yourself to French habits, avoid stile, and get over all delicacy in resisting extortion, which

you may generally do without giving offence; and, where it can be done, bargain before-hand. This saves a great deal of money, time, and temper.

Our party, consisting of Mr. G. Flower, myself, and my son, a youth of fifteen, performed the journey for £70. sterling each person, including all our expenses, excepting a few purchases which had no relation to travelling. We had no servant, and were tolerably attentive to economy.

Plain people may visit France without spending their fortunes. This is a piece of knowledge which may be productive of good: for I am convinced that a friendly intercourse between the middling classes of the two nations would be of incalculable benefit to both; especially between the middling classes of the *country* population, who are at present almost entirely unknown to each other. The great are rivals in politics, and the merchants in trade; and travellers have generally belonged to one or other of these descriptions; or they have been men of science, too often dependant on the former: but when the cultivators of the earth shall meet, they will give each other the right hand of fellowship, without fear or jealousy, and form a strong combination in favour of universal benevolence.

The naked proposition respecting the emancipation of our Negroes (p. 6,) seems to call for some explanation. I consider every regulation in the economy of the Planters, which produces an improvement in the condition of the negroes, as a step towards their emancipation. Within the last twenty years many such steps have been taken in our colonies by individual planters, all of which have been attended with a corresponding advantage to those humane and judicious persons who have adopted them. It seems now to be expedient that the law should step in to confirm to both master and slave the benefit of these wise regulations, and to extend to the whole those improvements which, partial experience will in vain hold up for imitation without this sanction. We have acknowledged that negroes are men. Our laws declare them to be objects of penal coercion; and are they not equally entitled to legal protection?

The friends of the Africans began their honourable career as the enemies of slavery: this was the corner stone, the fundamental principle of their association. But, unhappily, as I think, they were early diverted from the main object, and have been directing their whole strength to the demolition of one gigantic branch of this corrupt tree. At this branch they hewed, and hewed, for many a long year; and at length

when they had fairly severed it from the trunk; behold! it sprouted again, for the trunk remained untouched, and uninjured.

No man estimates more highly than myself the zeal and the strenuous, continued exertion of this most respectable body; but I shall never cease to lament that they became a society for the abolition—not of slavery, but of the slave trade; and even entered into a sort of compromise with the one, in order to secure the destruction of the other: flattering themselves, in opposition to all analogy, that the effect would cease whilst the cause remained.

Thus emancipation has been nearly lost sight of, and the discussion of the subject has been deemed almost forbidden ground. As though, by the emancipation of our negroes, was meant a mere act of manumission, which might instantly convert, into an ungovernable and vindictive savage, the being who now crouches to the rod in hopeless submission. Whereas the conversion of a slave into a free man must be the gradual result of a series of wise regulations, under which the unhappy beings, whose sudden liberation would be viewed with justifiable dismay, might enter into the possession of their rights, in the exact proportion of their capacity to enjoy them. Under the same regulations the colonies would speedily become in-

dependent of the trade in slaves by breeding—free men.

Such regulations would also effect a most happy change in the character and circumstances of the planters themselves: in their characters by the developement and gradual expansion of principles of universal justice: in their circumstances by placing at their disposal the immence capital which, at present, is absorbed in the stock of negroes.

By way of elucidation of the foregoing remarks, I beg to offer the following facts: not as singular, because I trust every colony, if not every district, can produce their parallels.

In the Island of Tobago are three estates belonging, at this time, to the family of my friend Henry Brooke, Esq. who, from motives of humanity felt by him, in common with many others whose property lies in the West Indies, has communicated to me these details, of what he justly terms, "practicable amelioration." The former proprietor of these plantations, foreseeing that the measures in contemplation for the abolition of the slave trade would eventually interrupt the supply of imported negroes, purchased, about the year 1803, an additional number of young females, amounting to sixty-three: these, and the other negroes already upon the estate, amounting to about one thou-

sand, were lodged in barracks in the usual mode.

He then built a number of separate huts, and allotted a portion of garden ground to each.

Marriage was then encouraged; and on the union of a young couple they were put in possession of one of these little homes, and provided with a small household stock of utensils, &c.

During pregnancy, two extra hours of rest per diem were remitted in the labour of the female; and on the birth of the child the two hours were permanently remitted; and so for each child an additional two hours, until, on the birth of the sixth, the mother became wholly excused from labour, excepting for the immediate comfort and support of her family.

On the birth of every child their allotment of provision ground was regularly increased, and half of a working day always allowed for its cultivation. A small present was also made to the father on announcing the birth of each child, and suitable comforts supplied to the mother and infant.

The negroes were allowed to attend the market to sell their spare produce; their poultry and their pigs: and thus, being possessed of property, they were also stimulated to increase it.

The managers and overseers were prohibited from rearing these animals; by which regulation the negroes were protected from the dangerous competition of such powerful rivals.

Although the Island of Tobago is not remarkable for the salubrity of its air, the result of these measures has corresponded with that union of policy and benevolence which dictated them. The stock of negroes has required no further external supply; and the general economy and good management which were introduced, has contributed largely to their comfort in all respects.

I have also been favoured by Edward Sharpe, Esq. (a gentleman who has lived 20 years on the island of St. Vincent, and has filled the highest legal situations, with equal advantage to the colony and credit to himself) with a general account of the treatment of slaves in that colony; which he concludes by observing that "the state of the negroes is improving every year. They are better treated by those who have the care of them, and they are better behaved."

Is it not plain that these benevolent and judicious measures, if *generally adopted*, would most effectually abolish the slave-trade by drying up its source? And when the comforts and the little possessions of money and other

property, the result of their industry and economy, become secured to them by law, is it not further evident that this operation would, in some degree, unclasp the fetters of the slaves themselves? And, further, that a vast improvement in character, affecting both the planter and his negroes, must be the inevitable consequence of the change in their relative situations? By this time the former has risen in feeling, and almost in fact to be the master of free men. And the latter has learnt to appreciate freedom without the temptation to abuse it. He is possessed of property, and he is under the protection of the law! Here is a broad and secure basis for complete emancipation. Give them, when arrived at this point, the legal right of purchasing, at a fair and fixed rate, the privilege of working for their master one day in six for wages: this would soon enable them to purchase the same privilege for a second, and so on to the sixth: and thus the work of emancipation is accomplished as far as concerns the individual. Let the children, born before this time, be liberated by government on a fair and generous principle of remuneration to the planter, and the family is free. Henceforward; master and servant become united by the legitimate tie of mutual interest.

Such is the outline of a plan which requires only to be filled up and to receive the sanction of the law to render it effectual to the general restoration of the negroes to freedom and happiness. It is demonstrably to the advantage of the planters to put such an end as this to that calamitous system;—and with Slavery, the Slave Trade falls of course. If then the endeavours of the friends of the Africans were directed to produce this change, so beneficial during its progress and in its consequences,—every step would tell; they would tread upon sure ground; they might be joined in the work by the Planters themselves; and from the commencement to the completion of the work, every succeeding labour would be easier than the former.

It is, as I have observed (p. 40,) the constant practice of the women in France to perform many of the operations of husbandry, which in most parts of our island are confined to men; and, from the universal cultivation of the country, there is much more field labour there than with us; women are therefore seen in far greater numbers in the fields by the passing traveller. From which, and the concurrent testimony of the Gazettes for the last twenty-five destructive

years, an Englishman unacquainted with the habits of the French peasantry, and probably under the influence of political excitement, very naturally infers a deficiency of the male population. This was a subject we never lost sight of; and from observation and enquiry in every part of our journey, we were fully convinced that the alleged disproportion between the sexes does not exist. The abstraction of men was not felt as a public grievance until the last two years of Buonaparte's tyranny, when the draughts amounted to a number, as I was informed, considerably exceeding a million. Very many of these, however, as well as of former conscriptions, had returned when we visited France. Indeed, the proportion which the French armies bore to the mass of the people was little more than half of the number absorbed by our army and navy, in proportion to our entire population; and to these we have to add the prodigious number with us employed in commerce, who are equally abstracted from the home supply: yet *we* are not sensible of a paucity of males.

Much has been said of this horrible conscription, by which Buonaparte was enabled to repair his wasted legions: but it is rather the abuse of the practice, than the principle, which is the proper ground of complaint. When ir-

resistible power becomes united in the same individual with insatiable ambition, it is no wonder that, in order to promote his views, the most righteous institutions are perverted. Thus the conscription, which, under a free government, would be the surest and most equitable principle of defence, and at the same time the best security against the adoption of mad schemes of offensive warfare, became a dreadful engine in the hands of a despotic ruler.

I know nothing of military affairs; but from what I have seen of French officers and soldiers, I am struck with the difference in character between an army drawn from all ranks by conscription, and whose officers rise by merit; and one formed from the dregs of the lowest orders, or from the scum of the highest. And their demeanour when disbanded differs as widely as their composition. The former return to their homes, resuming their stations among their peaceful fellow-citizens; whilst the latter are too often wretched vagabonds, the terror and pests of society; and the officers, probably, a burthen to themselves, and a tax upon the community.

To shew the value of French addresses as marking the real state of public opinion; and also to shew the true character of their periodi-

cal press, (p. 81,) the following fact may suffice. The good citizens of Nismes were first apprized of their own congratulatory address to the restored Monarch by reading it in the Paris journals.

This exposure (p. 88 & 89,) of the ignorance and vulgarity of two of our fellow visitors at the Menagerie of the Jardin des Plantes, has been attributed to anti-patriotic feelings, which I utterly disclaim: but having on a preceding evening, at the Theatre Français, witnessed what, in our gibberish, is called a *grand row*, between two young Parisians, I observed that in their utmost ire they used no such coarse expletives as too many of our countrymen are apt to produce on the most common occasions. The contrast, I acknowledge, disgusted me, and I was desirous of marking it, not for ornament, but for the use of those whom it may concern. The symptoms of a mean *education*, which they imputed to each other, formed the sum of the mutual objurgations of these Parisian heroes.

Having mentioned the Theatre, I must not omit commending the good sense of the French in lavishing no money on splendid decorations. They can thus afford to employ a full corps of good performers.

The phenomena of this most interesting and beautiful district, (see p. 77) furnish a grand, and to me convincing illustration of the theory of which, I believe, the venerable De Luc is the author, accounting for the irregularities in the present surface of the earth by subsidence, chiefly. The disruption of continuous horizontal strata, by partial depression, necessarily occasions those salient and receding angles which form the outline of our elevated districts,—our long and winding vales, and (where the depression is so narrow as to allow a comparison of the corresponding edges of the strata) those abruptly serrated dells which have been thought to resemble the beds of ancient torrents. In like manner the partial subsidence of strata every where furnished with perpendicular fissures, necessarily produces isolated masses and longitudinal ridges: If we discover at the bases of these, the same character of surface with their summits, we can scarcely resist the conviction that their relative level alone is altered; and such precisely seem to be the characters of this district.

The cones, amounting to about one hundred, and the numerous longitudinal ridges, crested with basalt, with which this charming country is, "parsemé," appear to be the venerable remains of the ancient surface, and the currents

of basalt which M. D'Aubuisson discovered at the base of some of the cones, the relics of that same surface after depression.

An isolated mass of shivery basalt produces a cone with as much certainty and precision as the emission of scoriæ, by volcanic eruption. And the surrounding evidences of volcanic agency, have naturally led to the supposition that these cones were produced by the latter cause.

Though not directly applicable to this discussion, I shall be excused for remarking, that the zigzag fissures, which we often see running from the high level of an elevated region to the low country at its base, cannot have been produced by a rapid and mighty current; for such a current must have passed nearly in a right line down the declivity. It is when a stream works its passage *through a level*, that these sudden windings are produced.

I have received from a gentleman of great information and respectability a letter containing sundry enquiries and strictures; and as it is probable that many persons may have similar views with that gentleman of the particulars on which he has favoured me with his sentiments, I insert, with his permission, the following ex-

tracts from his letter, and my reply, though certainly not originally intended for publication.

Extract of a letter to the author:

"———————— but I beg you to re-consider your assertion of the lightness of their taxes on land. You give only two notes, in one of which the tax amounts to 20 per cent. on the rent, on the other to 18 per cent.: average of the two 19 per cent. And as they have no tithe nor poor rates this is to be compared with a supposed English rental which shall include both those payments. By the average return made this year to the Board of Agriculture, the rental of £161. 12*s.* pays in tithe and rates £77. 16*s.*: amount of the three £239. 8*s.* Now, 19 per cent. on this sum would be paid in France, or £45. Instead of which it must appear to you sufficiently clear that nothing like that tax is to be found here. Our old land tax at 4*s.* is on an average just 5 per cent.; and the property tax at 10 per cent. will make this but 15, or 4 per cent. short of the French imposition. I would ask the favor of being informed whether you admit the fairness of this comparison.

"You have five minutes of the price of men's labour, four of them at 1s. 8d. and one at 1s. 3d. but these are all in July and August, and not a word of what is the price in winter; perhaps by

recurring to your notes you might ascertain the mean price of the whole year.

"It appears from your account that all the labourers are land proprietors; and we know that by the present law of France, land, on the death of a proprietor, is divided amongst his children: a law passed with a view of breeding soldiers. Are you aware, Sir, of the misery and ruin which must attend the progress of such a system? And may I ask if cases did not already come within your notice?

"It is so curious to compare the circumstances of different countries, that when an opportunity offers it is to be lamented when it is not used. Near Moulins you passed close to the chateau and estate of ————, of 4000 acres, which I agreed to purchase, ———————— had you stopped and taken an account of it at present you might have drawn a comparison of the periods before and after the revolution, absolutely complete in every particular. I truly wish that you had done it, as the accounts we have received of the comparative state of France are utterly contradictory.

"I perceive from the register you give of their courses of crops that not the smallest change has taken place: and your doubts relative to the application of turnips from dryness of climate

might have been answered, had you recollected that many *raves* are sown with success sufficient to shew that the climate does not forbid that culture."

Extract from the author's reply:

"I dont recollect more than two passages where I have mentioned the taxes of France—generally; viz. p. 52, where I call it a country "moderately taxed," and p. 106, at the top, where I speak of the French as being comparatively exempt from taxes. In neither case had I any view of drawing a comparison between the *direct taxes on land* in France and in England. Had this been my object I must, of course, have included in the English rental the tithe and poor rates; but I think the result would then have differed materially from your statement. By way of elucidation we will, if you please, take the estate which I have described, p. 20. The annual value of this estate, including the tax, is £441. 13s. The tax, £66. 13s. is 15 per cent. on this sum, and is the whole charge both for landlord and tenant.

"To compare this with an English estate of the same value, we must deduct in the first place 41 per cent. for tithe and rates, leaving a rent of £261. on which are paid the following taxes:

Old Land tax	£13	1	0	5 per cent. on rent
Landlord's Property tax . .	24	16	0	10 per cent. on rent Land tax deducted
Tenant's ditto	19	11	6	7½ per cent. on rent
Tenant's assessed taxes, about	20	0	0	7½ per cent. on rent.
	£77	8	6	

Therefore, on the original rental or gross value, of £441. 13s. is paid in direct taxes to government, £77. 8s. 6d. or 17¼ per cent. besides £180. or 41 per cent. tithe and rates. When we consider the small proportion the direct taxes bear to the sum which is drawn from us by a thousand different channels, I think, Sir, you will agree with me, that France is, in comparison, very moderately taxed.

If I am not prepared to give a decided answer to your enquiry respecting the mean price of labour, but my impression is that from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 8d. is near the truth.

I am fully aware of the deplorable consequence of the division and subdivision of little properties in a country like France, already so fully appropriated. Hardly a day passed during our journey among this people, at present so much at their ease, but I was depressed by this painful anticipation. I shall not waste your time with my expedients for obviating the mischief. A law the reverse of the

present abominable regulation of descents, would perhaps be the greatest blessing which a wise legislature could confer on France. The effects of such a law on the prosperity of the next generation are incalculable,—in the improvement of agriculture, the establishment of manufactures, and the creation of commerce."

There are a few passages in the letter which I omitted to notice in my answer, as they did not include an inquiry; but I think it right here to accompany them with a short comment.

The regret expressed that I had not visited an estate which he had seen and described, ("to have drawn a comparison of the periods before and after the Revolution," "as the accounts we have received of the comparative state of France are entirely contradictory;") seems to be rating such a statement too highly; because, should this estate, since the period of his visit, have been in the possession of a judicious and prosperous occupier, (of which description there are many to be found,) it would of course exhibit marks of improvement: and on the contrary, should it have fallen into the hands of an ignorant or indigent one, its present condition might be worse than when he surveyed it. In either case, how unsafe would it have been to have drawn general inferences from premises

merely incidental! This rash mode of generalizing is extremely delusive, and both sanguine and superficial observers are too apt to be misled and to mislead others by it. Hence in part arises the contradiction which this gentleman complains of in the accounts which have been given by travellers of the comparative state of France, now and before the Revolution.

The erroneous conclusion which many persons would draw from the next passage of the letter, may well illustrate the foregoing remark. It runs thus: "I perceive from the register you give of their courses of crops, that not the smallest change has taken place;"—that is to say, in the *outline* of French husbandry; but it is not safe to conclude that there is no improvement *under* this system, although the system itself remains, generally speaking, the same. On the contrary, independent of the concurring testimony of every well informed person in every part of the kingdom, we might with great safety infer that an advancement in agriculture must of necessity follow the abolition of the innumerable Saint's days, of all the feudal oppressions, of the ruinous corvées and of tithes; which latter were probably among the least of the burdens which the Revolution removed from the shoulders of the French husbandmen. Twelve

years of revolutionary commotion, succeeded by twelve more of military despotism, may have prevented those great systematic improvements which are the natural consequence of general prosperity; but agriculture is unquestionably advanced under the improved condition of every individual cultivator. With regard to the dryness of the climate forbidding turnips as a regular dependance, I always speak doubtingly; and I had not the good fortune during the whole journey to see a single acre either of turnips or of "*raves.*" I suspect also that the severity of the winters in the North of France would offer another formidable objection to the general culture of this crop. And in the South, where the vegetation of their winter *fourrage,* (the annual trefoil and lupines,) hardly experiences a check, it is a question whether the turnip, though so essential to our husbandry, has any properties to recommend it to them. Summer is their season of difficulty as regards their flocks. But whatever may be our verdict respecting turnip husbandry in France, that there is a spirit of improvement in the country we had various proofs, although the general character of their agriculture is as I have described it. We found at a seedsman's in Paris, (M. Vilmorin, Quai de la Megisserie,) about

twenty species of trefoils and vetches of late introduction, the whole of which are unknown to us as cultivated plants, though many of them are indigenous in Great Britain! We have brought specimens to England, and I am not without hopes that some of them may prove valuable acquisitions.

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